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November 1990 Vol. X No. 4

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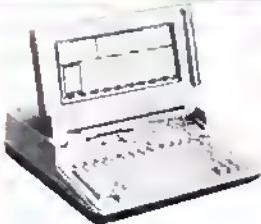
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Features

- 10**
Stevedores!
 Grant Bloedow
When the longshoremen's call beckons, try your hand . . .

12
A Brief Introduction to Modems
 Gary C. Kessler
Sorting out bits and bauds in your quest for communications

32
The Assembly Line Part VI: The Turing Bus
 William P. Nee
An imaginary machine comes to life

Product Reviews

In the Limelight
The Quest for Thelda/Sundog Systems

Baby BASIC/Danosoft _____

CEBBS 2.1/KB Enterprises _____

Firespire/SPORTSSware _____

Games Pack I/Eversoft Games, Ltd. _____

Grafix Disk Package/T&D Subscription Software _____

Labelbase/Constellation Computer Consultants _____

Mind-Roll/Epyx _____

Rampage/Activision _____

Sprite-BASIC/Supersoft, Inc. _____

The Wiz/Frank Hogg Laboratory _____

Zenlx/GOSUB Software _____

Table of Contents

November 1990
Vol. X No. 4

Columns

- 40**
Barden's Buffer
William Barden, Jr.
Cocos and laser jets

24
CoCo Consultations
Marty Goodman
Just what the doctor ordered

Novices Niche

- 26**
Your Age in Days
Richard Barberian

 - 36**
Adding Machine
Ernie Thompson

 - 52**
Pop-Up Menus
Douglas Liming

 - 60**
Laser Cycles
Robert Rogers

The cassette tape/disk symbols beside features and columns indicate that the program listings with those articles are on this month's RAINBOW ON TAPE and RAINBOW ON DISK. Those with only the disk symbol are not available on RAINBOW ON TAPE. For details, check the RAINBOW ON TAPE and RAINBOW ON DISK ad on page 94.

- 54**
Education Notes
Steve Blyn
Check your calendar

27
KISSable OS-9
Dale Puckett
Automating the online experience

8
Print#-2
Lonnie Falk
Editor's notes

Departments

Advertisers Index	95
Back Issue Info	23
The Intercom	86
Letters to Rainbow	4
Received & Certified	82
Submitting Material	52
Subscription Info.	36

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see Page 95

Letters to the RAINBOW

Companies on the Move**Editor:**

We are happy to announce that on September 10, 1990, Microcom Software moved to its own commercial building — 7200 square feet! Conveniently located near the Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester, the building houses a store front, a large mail-order room and a service center. All operational computers are networked to better control order entry and inventory tracking. The larger facilities will allow Microcom to serve its customers faster and more efficiently. It will also help us cater to the needs of our Canadian customers, who drive to Rochester for CoCo products.

Manohar T. Santwani
President, Microcom Software

Editor:

Sundog Systems has changed addresses and we want to let your readers know about it. Our new address is given below.

Glen Dahlgren
Sundog Systems
8188 Peakwood Court, #5
Manassas, VA 22111

Likes BASIC09 Coverage**Editor:**

In regard to the BASIC09 submissions to "Novices Niche" mentioned in "Wrapping the Rainbow" (August 1990), I like the idea and plan on making some submissions. I think this will encourage new OS-9 users, like myself, to keep working with, and learning, the BASIC09 programming language and OS-9 system.

James Ross
El Nido, California

Video Digitizer Quest**Editor:**

I've wanted to purchase a video digitizer for my CoCo, but have been unable to locate a vendor. Colorware no longer sells one. Can you help?

Steven Moreno
1509 Lincoln Boulevard
Tracy, CA 95376

Colorware does sell the DS-69 digitizer, originally produced by Micro Works. Also,

the Rascal-2 color digitizer is available from Supersoft. See their ads.

Looking for Root Hunters**Editor:**

I enjoy your magazine very much and would like to receive information on a good genealogy program. I have some programs but they do not go far enough.

I am looking for a BASIC program that covers several generations, includes all vital statistics and that stores data on disk.

I am retired and have a 64K CoCo.

Paul T. Metcalf
27 Bell Drive
Salem, NH 03079

Prickly Pear at one time sold a genealogy program, but we're not sure if it is currently available. Try the pages of *THE RAINBOW* for "Right Back Where we Started From" (September and October 1987).

Multi-Device Blues**Editor:**

I was surprised to see that Radio Shack no longer sells the Multi-Pak Interface. I would like to buy one on the used market or discover some other solution to the problem of simultaneously running my disk drive and modem.

Patrick Armstrong
348 Rapp Road
Talent, OR 97450

Consider the Slot-Pak, a multi-port device from Howard Medical.

Colorful Modifications**Editor:**

Two readers have written to ask how to get the full range of CoCo 3 HSCREEN2 colors into my program, JOYSTK3 (July 1990, Page 59). To do so, enter the following lines to get 15 colors plus the background (black), and to make some slight improvements to the program:

```
42 FORSL=8T015: READPL:PALETTESTL
,PL:NEXT
44 DATA 24,33,40,43,48,52,56,0
50 HSCREEN2:HCLS15
60 EXEC44539:1FPEEK(135)<480RPEE
K(135)>57ANDPEEK(135)<650RPEEK(1
35)>70THEN60
```

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```

250 OR=HPOINT (X,Y)
260 IFBUTTON(0)=1 THEN HSET (X,Y,OR):G
FOROL-1TO200:NEXT:HSET(X,Y,OR):G
0T0300
270 K-PEEK(135):IFK>47ANOK<58THE
NK-K-48ELSE1FK>64ANOK<71THENK-K-
55
310 POKE65496, 0: RGB:PRINT@224,
"ERROR #""ERNO"IN LINE #""ERLIN":EN
0
320 POKE65496, 0: RGB:CLS:ENO

```

Line 42 puts the palette values from Line 44 into slots 8 to 15. Slot 15, the background color, is black. For the CoCo 3 default colors green to orange, press 0 to 7. Press 8, 9 or A to F for colors 8 to 15.

The values in Line 44 can be changed to suit personal taste.

*Keiran Kenny
Cremorne, NSW
Australia*

Powerful Connections

Editor:

Is it possible to modify a CoCo 3 for use with the British 240-volt, 50-Hz power supply and 625-line, PAL TV Standard using the RF modulator and transformer from a CoCo 2 sold in Britain? If so, how would I do this? Are there any companies that would make the modification for me?

*P.R. Marlow
50 Lime Avenue
Bentley, Walsall
West Midlands, G.B. WS2 0JP*

For information on using the CoCo overseas, refer to "CoCoing Abroad" (November 1987, Page 32) by Marty Goodman and Don Hutchison.

Reviewing Reviews

Editor:

I am writing this letter to hopefully dispel a misconception that Zebra Systems' *Label Designer* was somehow designed with a bug in it that won't allow it to print the full alphabet. Also consider this letter a testimonial to the power of your magazine's reviews, even many months after an issue appears. Your readers evidently keep their RAINBOWS on file or at least save reviews for products that might be of future interest.

In the May 1990 issue of THE RAINBOW, Ernest Zore gave *Label Designer* a very favorable review. One comment he made, however, has caused confusion and became the subject of letters and phone calls between your readers and Zebra Systems. The comment was, "For some odd reason,

the alphabet only goes up to the letter V. Someone with a last name like mine could get offended by an omission like that."

People interested in *Label Designer* are writing and calling us to find out if we've gotten the bug out of our program yet because they think it won't print text for the full alphabet. *Label Designer* text fonts certainly do contain and print the full alphabet, digits and punctuation.

In addition to text fonts, *Label Designer* comes with picture collections. Most graphics labels use one or maybe two pictures and the pictures are usually large and prominent. It is often useful in printing tickets, diskette labels and other items that have one very large digit or letter for identification or as a sequence designation. Zebra does this in labeling its picture and font disks. So we dedicated one *Label Designer* picture collection to large graphics of the digits 0-9 and the 22 letters A thru V. For program structure reasons, all our picture collections hold 32 items, 4 less than the 10 digits plus 26 letters of the alphabet would require. We did not think it likely that the omission of the large letters W, X, Y and Z in one picture collection would matter to anyone. No user who has the program has ever brought this up as a problem.

Readers may not be familiar with all the work THE RAINBOW does to bring them accurate reviews. Before it was published, Zebra was sent a copy of Mr. Zore's review to check for technical accuracy. I personally checked the review and the only change I made was to correct our address. I realized there was some chance the comment about the letters W, X, Y and Z, though technically accurate, could cause confusion, but I didn't want to nit-pick so I let it go. That turned out to be my mistake.

I'd like to thank THE RAINBOW for continuing to do such a good job. THE RAINBOW is the most important entity for the continued prosperity of the CoCo product marketplace. Every CoCo enthusiast should subscribe to it and every CoCo product supplier should advertise in it. I'd also like to express my admiration of your readers for doing their homework to thoroughly research the products they buy.

*Stewart Newfeld
President, Zebra Systems, Inc.
State College, Pennsylvania*

Editor:

Regarding the October review of my test-writing program, WRITEST, I was out of town and unable make comments before publication. I have completely re-written the operating instructions. Also provided is a merge to put more-complete directions

within the program until the user no longer needs them. Included is some dummy data with comments to be worked within the program. The program also will not scrap either itself or data without user approval. This was something I did not fully appreciate until I accidentally trashed an entire program with a single keystroke while using the school's Apple computer. WRITEST will take data and print a 15-item matching document (plus a key), in about 3/4 of the time it takes to get just the test out of my 1000EX, and it's a very fast and easy-to-use \$8 word-processor. For tape users it is worth knowing that WRITEST can read old tape files and copy them to disk if you wish.

*Darryl L. Petrak
CoCosoft
House, New Mexico*

A Spelling Situation

Editor:

I have *Simply Better* (Version 2.0) which I run on a 128K CoCo 3 with a dual drive. I am looking for a spelling checker that will work with *Simply Better*. So far, I have only been able to find spelling checkers as part of a package (like *Word Power*). Obviously this is not for me as I do not want to change word processors. Although I seek a spell checker, I would be more than happy to find one that also checked punctuation, dual words, etc.

I have searched through THE RAINBOW and, except for the above, have come up dry. Can anyone tell me where such a utility might be purchased?

*Edwin A. Tincknell
254 Maple Road
Longmeadow, MA 01106*

THE RAINBOW welcomes letters to the editor. Mail should be addressed to: Letters to Rainbow, The Falstaff Building, P.O. Box 385, Prospect, KY 40059. Letters should include the writer's full name and address. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or to conserve space.

Letters to the editor may also be sent to us through our Delphi CoCo SIG. From the CoCo SIG> prompt, type RAI to take you into the Rainbow Magazine Services area of the SIG. At the RAINBOW> prompt, type LET to reach the LETTERS> prompt and then select Letters for Publication. Be sure to include your complete name and address.

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World Net



I have recently completed reading David Brin's *Earth*, a very interesting novel about the world of the near future. I think it has some insights for us all. Although it is a good one, I forgot that *Earth* is essentially an environmental novel, and forgot too that it deals with the highly improbable ability of humans to manufacture black holes. I simply do not have the physics background to determine whether this is plausible — this is just a novel anyway.

What is striking about the book is Brin's prediction that within 50 years our world will be embraced by an all-encompassing data-communications network very much along the lines of Delphi or CompuServe. I don't know what they are planning in Boston or Columbus, but it is probably nothing close to Brin's suggestion. The idea makes captivating fare nevertheless.

Earth does the hard job of predicting the near future which I think is more difficult than predicting the far future, since people will be around to see it and have definite ideas about what will happen. The concept is an exceptional one and author Brin has obviously been doing some "running around" in data services. His thoughts make a fine backdrop for this data communications issue of THE RAINBOW.

Brin predicts a "world net" in which virtually all means of communication are combined into a single entity — fax, mail, news. Most intriguing is that almost anyone can set up priorities for different items. This means that since all kinds of information are filtered into the net, you can obtain custom information based on your interests every day.

I have often wished I could do this on Delphi, downloading daily UPI stories of world and national news in addition to sports — all done overnight.

Earth's world net goes much further

than this, of course. World net acts as a repository for information of all kinds — sort of an instant *World Almanac*. If, for example, you are interested in literacy levels, any new report from any government would be sent to your queue.

While all of this is fascinating, another aspect of Brin's world net is even more absorbing — users groups of most every kind and description. These are, of course, patterned after the users groups on a service like Delphi. But as he foresees it, virtually every kind of political, religious, social or anti-social group will have its own space. Such groups also have the ability to "broadcast" to the world net at large.

Although this aspect of the novel captured my imagination, it is not the central theme of the book. The environment is. However, the characters would have a difficult time functioning without the world net and this is certainly an impressive prediction of things to come.

Of course with our CoCos, we have a net of our own available on Delphi. Although these are computer forums (incidentally, our company also runs Delphi forums for teens and aviation, as well as computers), the messages and conferences often veer into other areas. Seeing how this happens, and how riveting it can be to participate, makes me think Brin's projections may not be far off base in this regard.

For what it is worth, these are the 90s. We think of the 90s of a century ago as quaint, with handlebar moustaches, barbershop quartets and couples walking at arm's length in "the gloaming." Will our children, hooked to the world net Brin foresees, think of our little computers, Postal Service and the like as similarly quaint anachronisms of a "kinder, gentler" era?

Let's meet on Delphi and discuss it.

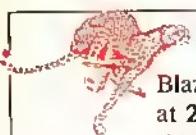
— Lonnie Falk

...Just think of any word processing feature, chances are Word Power has it...packs a lot of features...excellent word processor..."Word Proc. Comparison-April 1989 Rainbow Pg 26.

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Sort lists in a flash!



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Choice of **40** or **80** columns with your choice of colors. Can be used with RGB/Composite/Mono-chrome Monitors and TV. Pull down menus, plain english prompts, on-screen underlining and page break display make



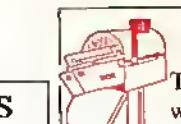
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Type a letter, follow it with a list of names & addresses and have Word Power print out personalized letters. Its that easy!



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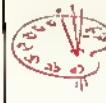
Freeze a portion of text and edit another. Its fantastic!

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Creates ASCII files that are compatible with other word-processors, terminal programs, etc. Allows directory point & select for easy loading/saving, **Automatic Backup**, file erase, free space display. **ARE YOU SURE?** prompts prevent accidental deletes. The **Auto-Save** feature automatically saves text to disk during user-defined intervals for peace of mind. Supports double-sided drives.



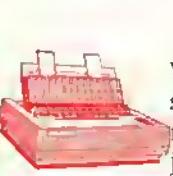
GRAPHICS



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WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET feature allows you to preview the text on the screen as it will appear on the printer. You can view margins, page breaks,



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*When the
longshoreman's
call beckons,
try your hand . . .*

Stevedores is a BASIC version of a popular Russian game but disguised in a new scenario. The object of the game sounds relatively simple. You are a stevedore and your job is to load the cargo ship.

To load the cargo hold of the ship, stack the box configurations as efficiently as possible. Use the left and right arrow keys to move the boxes to the position where you would like them dropped. You can also rotate the box configuration 90 degrees by using the up or down arrow

keys. When you are ready to drop the piece, press the space bar. The boxes will fall until they hit the top of another box or reach the bottom of the cargo hold. The game is over when the cargo hold is filled and the boxes reach to the top of the hold past the white full line. The ship will then leave for its destination port. Be careful not to drop boxes on the ship's deck. This will also end the game.

This is fine, except wasting time will cost the company money. If you select the practice mode you have an unlimited amount of time. But when playing with time you are scored by how fast you can drop each box. If you take the full time the boxes automatically release and drop even if you aren't ready. This can fill the cargo hold quite fast. When beginning with time you are allowed five seconds to orient the

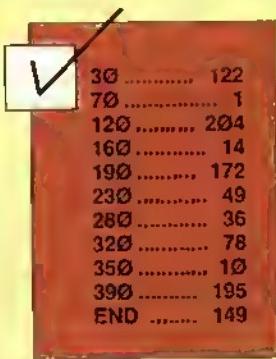
piece before it falls. After each set of 20 box configurations, a whistle starts the next level giving you one-half of a second less time. Upon filling a row of the hold it slides further into storage and the rest of the stack falls to accommodate the new space. This is critical to achieving a high score.

Here are some hints for playing *Stevedores*: The next piece to be loaded is shown below the stevedores compartment. As a piece falls, look at the next piece to plan where it should be dropped. This will save you some time. If you missed filling a box place and have already covered it with other boxes, it can be uncovered by filling the rows above it to let the upper rows fall down to uncover the hole. Good luck, stevedore, and happy loading! □

Grant Bloedow is a freshman at St. Olaf College. He enjoys tennis, art and computing. He may be contacted at 4400 Cedar Lake Rd. #1, St. Louis Park, MN 55416, (612) 374-4483.

by Grant Bloedow

Stevedores!



The Listing: STEVEDOR

```

0 *COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC.
10 DATA11,11,5,11,17,11,5,17,17,
11,17,11,17,11,11,11,11,5,11,17,
17,5,11,17,11,17,11,17,12,6,,12,
..12,12,6,18,,6,12,6,6,12,12,
6,12,12,12,,6,6,,12,18,,6,6,18
..12,,18,6,18,18,12,12,,12,,6,
12,12,18,,12,12,12,12,12,12,
12,12
20 DATA 6,12,,6,6,,18,12,,6,6,6,
12,18,,18,18,,18,18,,001,011,111
..011,011,111,100,001,111,011,011
..011,000,101,111,000,110,111,000
..010,111
30 CLS:PRINT:PRINT"<P>ractice?":'
EXEC44539:POKE500,ASC(1NKEY$):PR
INT"INITIALIZING, PLEASE WAIT...
":PLAY"P1":DATA 011,001,111,001,
111,111,011,001,101,000,111,111,
011,001,011,001,011,011,001,011,
001
40 DATA101,001,111,011,011,111,0
01,100,111,011,011,011,101,000,1
11,011,000,111,010,000,111
50 DATA001,101,111,001,111,111,1
01,001,011,000,111,111,101,001,1
01,101,101,001,001,101,001
60 POKE65497,0:PCLEAR1:CLEAR1000
:PALETTE0,63:PALETTE1,0:PALETTE2
,37:PALETTE3,37:PALETTE4,10:PALE
TTE5,7:PALETTE6,56:PALETTE7,36:P
ALETTE8,38:PALETTE9,35:FORK-11TD
15:PALETTEK,0:NEXT:DIMM(30),L(38
,,1),T(38,2):POKE&HE687,&H39:HSCR
EEN2:POKE&HE6B7,&H20
70 FORK-1T028:HBUFFK,120:NEXT:HB
UFF29,3100:HBUFF30,120:HBUFF41,1
20:FORK-31T040:HBUFFK,65:NEXT:M(
29)-RNO(28):T-RNO(.TIMER):L=5:8$-
"R5D5L5U5F2R0L":FORK-1T014:REA
OL(K,0),L(K,1):L(K+1,0)-L(K,0):
L(K+1,1)-L(K,1):NEXT:FORK-1T028
:REAOT(K,0),T(K,1),T(K,2)
80 NEXT:POKE&HE6C6,33:HCLS1:FORK
-1T028:FORY-1T03:READA$:H=0:FORK
-1T03:H=X*6-6:V=Y*6-6
90 IFMIO$(A$,X,1)=""THENHDRAW"C
9BM-H,-V;"+"B$:NEXTX,Y:ELSEHRAW
"C18M-H,-V;"+"B$:NEXTX,Y
100 HGET(0,0)-(L(K,0),L(K,1)),K:
NEXTK
110 HCLS1:HDRAW"A0C3BM129,50092R
61U92R20D108L102U108R20":HPAINT(
128,60),3,3:HORAW"C0BM108,59R21B
R61R20C38M16,65NR94":FORK-1T022:
HORAW"FO3":NEXT:HORAW"FDFOFRFR3F
R230EUE":FORK-1T07:HDRAW"U11E":N

```

```

EXT
120 HCOLOR5:HPRINT(14,0),"*Steve
dores*":HCOLOR4:HPRINT(12,1),"BY
Grant Bloodow"
130 HORAW"C3E7L84C6BM15,54R92D1
0L92U10BM211,54R80D10L80U10
140 HPAINT(28,69),3,3:HPAINT(16,
59),6,6:HPAINT(212,59),6,6:HCOLD
RS:HPRINT(2,7),"U.S.S.Grant":HCO
LORI:HLINE(108,32)-(210,54),PSET
.BF
150 HORAW"C8BM90,30":FORK-1T022:
HDRAW"E5RG5BR4H5RF5":NEXT:FORX-0
T01:H-X*132+80:HDRAW"BM-H,,52":F
ORK-1T03:HORAW"E7RG7BR7H7LF7BH7"
:NEXTX,X:HDRAW"BM89,31R123NR7D22
R8U22R3U7L135D29L8U22R8U18HL16G0
17FR16U7L12U9R12C5":HPAINT(77,30
),8,8
160 A$-="C5BM78,23NR2ELU2EC9NRURE
C7HFL2DBF2C6LDR2G":HDRAWA$+"R4C
9UC5BD2R0C1":HGET(78,16)-(86,23)
..31:HDRAWA$+"R2C9UC5BD2R0C1":HGE
T(78,16)-(86,23),33:HLINE(78,16)
-(86,23),PSET,BF:HDRAWA$+"R5C9UC
5BD2R0C1"
170 HGET(78,16)-(86,23),32:HCOLOR
R4:HLINE(0,161)-(319,191),PSET,B
F:HDRAW"BM0,160NR46UNR42UNR40UR3
9UL39UR38U138BM319,160NL41UL40UR
40UL39UR39UL39UR39
180 HORAW"C08M232,31NR20U3EU3EU3
EU3R20D3GD3G03GD3L8M225,53CSNR45
UC6R45U20L45D20BE5R10NU5R10U5L20
N010BFC4D3R8UL8UR8UNL8BR2R80L8DR
8DL8":HPAINT(235,30),0
190 HPAINT(226,50),6,6:HDRAW"BU4
C5NR8L11D5R19U5BM245,31C5U10LUR2
OL0RC4RDLCER3R48D2NL6802L6UC0R6B
U2L4":HGET(244,19)-(252,31),35:H
COLOR0:HLINE(244,19)-(252,31),PS
ET,BF:HDRAW"BM245,31C5U10LUR2DLO
RC4RGR2C3R2ERB02LGL2HLB02RFR2ERU
C0LGL2HLRER2ER"
200 HGET(244,19)-(252,31),36:HCOLOR
L0R0:HLINE(244,19)-(252,31),PSET
.BF:HDRAW"BM245,31C5U10LUR2DLORC
40RG0C3F02FB2H2U2H":HGET(244,
19)-(252,31),34
210 HDRAW"BM272,161C1R3GR3GR3GR3
GR3GR3D2L2UR6H6C02HR2":HGET(287,
160)-(289,174),38:HDRAW"C1R0BL2R
0FCGFL2DR2G8U5EL2UR2H":HGET(287,
160)-(289,174),39:HDRAW"RULGU2R2
HD12HD2FURU2":HGET(287,160)-(289
,174),40
220 HDRAW"BM165,31C9D3C8RL2GLR6F
L8DR80C5L8DC6R8":HGET(154,31)-(1
75,39),41
230 HDRAW"8M235,15C11R0E2C12DBRR
0BGC11R0R8E3C13E":FORK-1TD50:HSE
T(RNO(25)+245,15-RND(14),10+RNO(
4)):NEXT
240 HSCREEN2:GOTO260
250 T=0:M(1)=M(29):FORK-2T030:M(
K)-RNO(28):NEXT:L=L-.5:SC-SC+(5-
L)*50:PLAY"V31:T255L25505:1;2;3;
4;4;5;5;6;5;4;2;05;1;2;3;5;7;8
;10;11;12":IFL<1THENL-1:RETURNL
SERETURN
260 GOSUB250:X=160:SC=0:PLAY"725
5L255
270 POKE65497,0:HCOLOR1:HLINE(X-
5,32)-(X+14,39),PSET,BF:HCOLOR6:
HLINE(211,56)-(290,63),PSET,BF:S
C$-STR$(SC):HCOLOR5:HPRINT(26,7)
.SC$:X=160:Y=40:HPUT(X-5,31)-(X+
14,39),41,PSET:1FSC>99999THE
N400
280 T-T+1:P=M(T):R=M(T+1):HCOLOR
1:HLINE(94,33)-(113,51),PSET,8F:
HPUT(94,33)-(93+L(R,0),33+L(R,1)
)R,PSET
290 TIMER=0:E=0:IFT>28THENGOSUB2
50:GOTO280
300 E=1NT(TIMER/60):HPUT(X,Y)-(X
+L(P,0),Y+L(P,1)),P,PSET:A$-INKE
YS$:1FPEEK(343)-247AN0X>121THE
NHC
OL0R1:HLINE(X,Y)-(X+L(P,0),Y+L(P
,1)),PSET,BF:X-X-6:HPUT(X-5,31)
-(X+14,39),41,PSET:HPUT(7B,16)-(8
6,23),31:GDT0300
310 IFPEEK(344)-247AN0X<180THE
NHC
COLOR1:HLINE(X,Y)-(X+L(P,0)+6,Y+
L(P,1)),PSET,BF:X-X+6:HPUT(X-5,3
1)-(X+14,39),41,PSET:HPUT(7B,16)
-(86,23),32,PSET:GOT0300
320 IFPEEK(342)-247AN0X<180THE
NHC
COLOR1:HLINE(X,Y)-(X+L(P,0),Y+L(
P,1)),PSET,BF:P-P+7:1FP>28THE
N-P
P-28:GOT0300
330 IFPEEK(341)-247AN0X<180THE
NHC
COLOR1:HLINE(X,Y)-(X+L(P,0),Y+L(
P,1)),PSET,BF:P-P-7:1FP<1THE
N-P
P+28:GOT0300
340 IFA$-CHR$(32)ORE>L ANDPEEK(5
00)<>80THEHPUT(78,16)-(86,23),3
3,PSET:HCOLOR1:HLINE(X,Y)-(X+L(P
,0),Y+L(P,1)),PSET,BF:FOR=Y T01
60STEP6:HGET(X,F)-(X+L(P,0),F+L(
P,1)),30:HPUT(X,F)-(X+L(P,0),F+L(
P,1)),P,OR:SC-INT(SC+L-E):ELSE3
00
350 PL=0:FORQ-1T03:IFT(P,Q-1)=0T
HENNEXTQ:ELSEIFHPOINT(X+Q*6-6,F+
T(P,Q-1))<>1THENPL=PL+1:NEXTQ:
EL
SENEXTQ
360 A$-INKEY$:IFPL>0THENPOKE6549
6,0:PLAY"01V31EA920CV10GFV3ADE":
POKE65497,0:SC-SC+5:ELSE:HPUT(X,
F)-(X+L(P,0),F+L(P,1)).30.PSET:N
EXTF:PL=0
370 1FF<99THEHEXEC43345:GOT0400E
LSEFORV-F+(P,1)TOF-1BSTEP-6:PL-
0:FORH->T09:IFHPOINT(H*6+130,V)<
>1THENPL=PL+1:NEXTH
380 IFPL=10THEHGET(130,V-6)-(18
9,50),29:HPUT(130,V-6)-(189,50),
29:HPUT(130,V)-(189,56),29,PSET:
POKE65496,0:PLAY"D1V31EGV25ADV15
BADV10FEV4AOBV1AEF":POKE65497,0:
SC-SC+25:V=V+6
390 NEXTV:GDT0270
400 PLAY"7255L25501V20C:C:C01V31
D:D:O:O:D:OV20D:O:DV5D:O:P1P1P
1V20D:O:V31D:C:D:OV250DDV2000CDV
100000V5DCDOV100CDT255":A$-INKEY
$:HCOLOR0,4:HPRINT(16,22),"GAME
OVER":HPRINT(14,23),"PRESS ANY K
EY":C-37:Q-1
410 T-TIMER/60:POKE65496,0:PLAY"
V301AGP3:"+STR$(RND(12)):A$-INKE
YS$:1FA$->""THEN430ELSEHPUT(244,1
9)-(252,31),RNO(3)+33,PSET:C-C+0
:PLAY"V101:"+STR$(RNO(9)):HPUT(2
87,160)-(289,174),C,PSET
420 IFT>29THENELSE1FC-40THE
NQ--1
:GOT0410ELSE1FC=38THE
NQ-1:GOT041
0ELSE410
430 HCOLOR4:HLINE(110,175)-(213,
191),PSET,BF:HCOLOR1:HLINE(130,3
2)-(189,141),PSET,8F:HLINE(108,3
2)-(210,54),PSET,BF:HPUT(244,19)
-(252,31),34,PSET:A$-INKEY$:GOT0
260

```

Sorting out bits and bauds in your quest for online communication

A Brief Introduction to Modems

by Gary C. Kessler

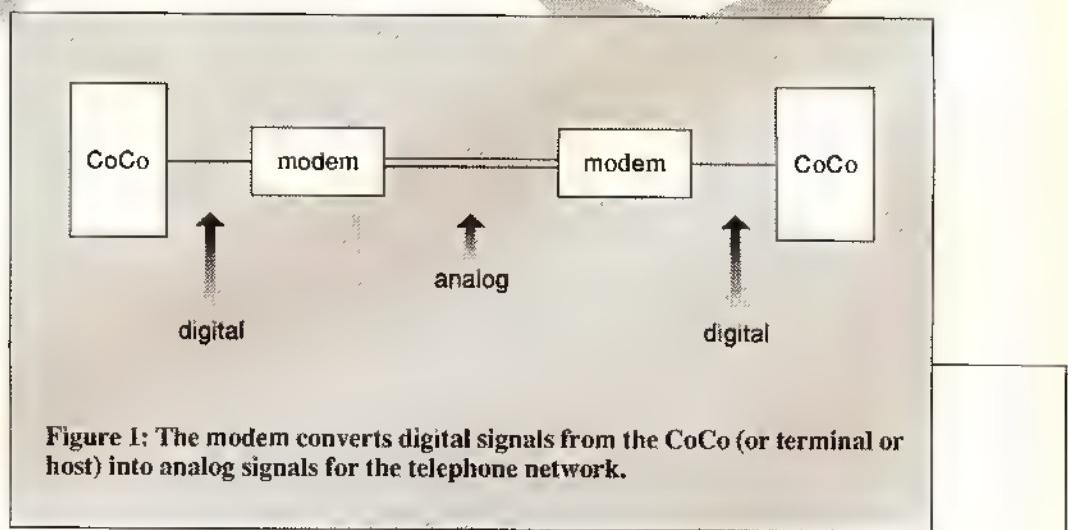


Figure 1: The modem converts digital signals from the CoCo (or terminal or host) into analog signals for the telephone network.

This article introduces the topic of data communications over analog telephone lines using modems and discusses modem standards and function. Reference material includes J.E. McNamara's third edition of *Technical Aspects of Data Communication* (Maynard, Massachusetts: Digital Press, 1988) and W. Stallings' second edition of *Data and Computer Communications* (New York: Macmillan, 1988.)

For our purposes keep in mind that we are describing *digital data* being transmitted as *analog signals*. Digital data, or digital signals, are those that consist only of discrete values, such as the data from a computer. Binary data is a special case of digital where there are only two possible choices: 0 or 1.

Analog signals, or analog data, consist of any value within a range of values. Hu-

man voice is an example of analog signals. Since the telephone network was built specifically for the transmission of human speech, it is designed to carry analog signals. (In fact a large portion of the telephone network carries human voice in digital form, but the local connection between the home and the telephone network is still almost exclusively analog.)

As an example of discrete and continuous values, consider numbers. The set of integers is discrete; there is no integer value, for example, between 3 and 4. Real numbers, on the other hand, are continuous since there are an infinite number of real numbers between any two given numbers.

In any case here is where the modem comes in. MODEM is an acronym for MODULATOR-DEMODULATOR. Its function is to convert digital data from a host computer or terminal into analog signals for the tele-

Gary Kessler is a data communications and computer networking consultant. He may be contacted at 5 Creek Glen, Colchester, VT 05446-3641, (802) 879-3375.

Breaking the Modem Code

Ever wonder what those lights on the front panel of your modem are? Do their labels (CD, RD, ARQ, etc.) leave you mystified? And how about all those AT commands you've heard about? What's ATDT and ATM0?

If you've ever wondered about these elements of your modem, you'll want to read this guide and reference to modem status indicators and commands. You should read it even if you haven't been wondering about these great mysteries of the universe because understanding your modem and knowing how to talk to it make troubleshooting and controlling telecommunications easy.

Listening To Your Modem: Status Indicators

First let's take a look at those lights on your modem's front panel. They can provide a lot of information about what your modem is up to, as

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Multipak Service Manual \$19.95
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Games for CoCo 1,2,3

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well as the status of a call. Here's the breakdown:

AA — This indicator is on when your modem is set to *Auto Answer* mode and while it is connected with a modem that has called it.

ARQ — This is an indicator that automatic error control (*Automatic Repeat Request* or MNP) is in effect between modems.

CD (or DCD) — CD stands for *Carrier Detect* and means that your modem has detected a carrier signal from another modem — or thinks it has. Your modem detects a signal when it communicates with a modem, either by calling it (as the originating modem) or by answering a call (as the answering modem). Your modem can be fooled into thinking it has detected a carrier if you turn its carrier detect override switch to *On*. This is required by some software and by direct connections.

CS (or CTS) — Short for *Clear to Send*, CS flashes when your modem sends a signal to your computer that it's OK to send more data. This typically happens several times per second.

HS — This is the *High Speed* indicator, which is on whenever you set a speed of 1200 or 2400 bits per second (bps) with most modems or higher speeds with some. If it is not on, you are operating at your modem's slowest possible speed (usually 300 bps).

MR — This one's easy: It means *Modem Ready* and indicates that the power is on. If your modem is capable of performing an offline self-test, it flashes during the test.

OH — OH stands for *Off Hook*, and it means your modem has opened the telephone circuit, figuratively "taking the phone off the hook." The OH indicator comes on when your modem is dialing and stays on during the ensuing connection.

RD (or DR) — This indicator flashes when a data bit is received from a remote system (it stands for *Received Data*), or when the modem is sending result codes (explained later in this article) to your computer. The RD indicator flashes as characters appear on your computer's screen; if a data transfer is in process, it should flash rapidly in concert with the SD indicator.

RS (or RTS) — This is a *Request to Send* signal indicator; it is on when the modem is on if the computer's RS-232C port uses the Request to Send pin (Pin 4). This indicator flashes on and off if the RS-232C port is controlling data flow; otherwise it stays on.

SD (or DS) — This is the *Send Data* indicator; it flashes when a data bit is sent to the modem by your computer. The SD indicator should flash whenever you type anything on your keyboard. If a data transfer is in process, it should flash rapidly in concert with the RD indicator. (Note: If the RD and SD indicators stop flashing and/or either stays on for more than a few seconds during a protocol — Xmodem, Kermit, etc. — transfer, you should abort the transfer. Unless these indicators are flashing, data is not being exchanged.)

TR (or DTR) — You probably guessed this one: *Terminal Ready* (or *Data Terminal Ready*). This is on when the modem receives a signal from the computer (terminal) that it is ready to receive data. Some communications programs require that this be "forced" on by setting the modem's DTR override DIP switch to *On*. This eliminates hardware flow control and allows the software to have complete control over the rate of incoming data.

Your modem may not have all these indicators, but it should be equipped with CD, HS, MR, RD,

phone network and to convert analog signals into digital form (see Figure 1).

Baud vs. Bit Rate

Before discussing modems any further, we must define two important communica-

The terms baud and bit rate do not refer to the same thing.

tions terms: baud and bit rate. The *baud* of a device refers to its signaling rate, or the number of signals generated per unit time. Thus a 2400-baud modem sends 2400 signals per second. The *bit rate* refers to the number of bits sent through a communications channel per unit time. Therefore a 2400 bits-per-second (bps) device transmits 2400 bits per second.

The terms baud and bit rate do not refer to the same thing. The relationship between the two depends upon the number of bits transmitted with each signal. As we will see, a 2400-baud modem and a 2400-bps modem are very different devices. While many readers of this article have used a 2400-bps modem, I'd guess that relatively few have ever used a 2400-baud modem.

Telephone Network Basics

To understand modems and their use, it is necessary to understand some basics about the local telephone line and analog signals.

People speak by forcing air over their vocal cords. The vibration of the vocal cords in turn causes vibrations in the air, interpreted by the ear as sound. These vibrations are basically a combination of *sinusoidal* (sine) waves (Figure 2).

While humans can generate tones in the range of 50 to 15,000 cycles per second (Hertz, or Hz) and the ear can detect sounds in the range of 20 to 20,000 Hz, the dial-up telephone network is optimized for human speech and carries signals in the range of only about 300 to 3400 Hz. (The reasoning behind this choice and the reason that the telephone network carries the human voice with high quality even in such a narrow band is beyond the scope of this article.)

Without going too much into communications theory, it is worth mentioning Harry Nyquist's Theorem, which specifies the theoretical maximum signaling rate on a communications channel. Since the telephone network passes sounds in the range of 300 to 3400 Hz, it is said to have a band

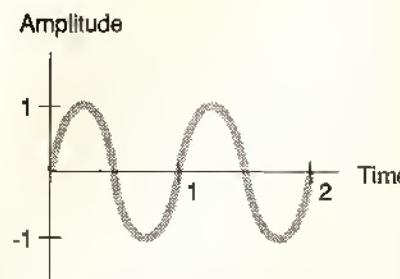


Figure 2: Sine wave with an amplitude of 1, and phase shift of 0°.

Amplitude

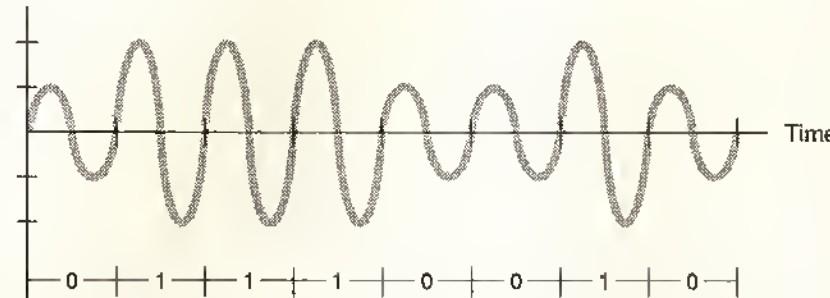


Figure 3: Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK). The low and high amplitude sine waves represent a 0 and 1, respectively. Note that ASK does not affect frequency and phase shift.

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SD and TR indicators unless it has no indicators at all.

Taking Command of Your Modem

Now that you have an idea of what your modem is doing, let's take a look at how to use direct commands to make it do what you want it to do.

Did you buy a used modem without a manual or lose your modem's manual? If so, you may be missing quite a bit in terms of command access to your modem. Fortunately most modems use the de facto AT command set, so-named because most of the commands must be preceded by the attention signal AT. These are the same commands your communications software uses to communicate with your modem, by the way.

A summary of AT commands follows. Note that the commands listed in the table are those commonly used in dialing and answering operations. Your modem may offer additional commands for configuration, setup and self-diagnostics, particularly if it is a Hayes modem.

Some modem manufacturers (such as U.S. Robotics and Hayes) use what is called an *extended AT command set*. This is a set of specialized commands — based on the AT command set — used to access their modems' special features. The AT commands shown in the list also operate with such modems of course.

Entering Commands

Commands can be typed in upper- or lowercase. With the exception of +++ and A/ all commands must be preceded by AT, and all are implemented by pressing ENTER. They can also be included in script files.

On most modems if you type a command that requires a numeric option and do not include the option, the option is assumed to be zero. For example, if you type ATH, the modem responds as if you've typed ATH0.

Try these commands with your modem; if a command or a command with a numeric option doesn't work, you'll either see an error message or the command will be ignored. Either way you can't hurt anything, and you may learn that your modem is more powerful than you thought.

Standard Commands

+++ — This is the *attention* command or escape code. This code, when entered via keyboard while no data is being transferred between the local system and the remote system, switches the modem to command mode, during which time anything you type is intercepted by the modem and interpreted as a command. The connection is maintained by the modem except in the special situations described below. To return online and cause the modem to resume sending input to the remote system, type AT0.

Being able to send commands directly to the modem while it is connected can be useful, especially in situations where you need to override parameters set by software or turn a feature such as a character echo on or off.

If a modem is using ARQ error-detection mode or if it is equipped with an *Escape Code Operations* DIP switch (usually Switch 9) set to Off, the modem disconnects when you enter +++.

A — This command forces the modem to answer an incoming call if it doesn't respond.

A/ — A/ causes the modem to repeat the most recent command (used only with modems that store commands in a command buffer; will not recall a command if the command buffer has been

width of 3100 Hz, or 3.1 kHz (i.e., 3400 - 300 = 3100). Nyquist's Theorem says that the maximum number of signals that can be sent through a communications channel is twice the band width of the channel. Thus a device attached to the telephone network could theoretically only operate at 6200 symbols per second (baud).

This points immediately to a difference between the terms *baud* and *bps*. Many vendors sell 9.6-, 14.4- and 19.2-kbps modems for operation over the dial-up telephone network. They obviously could not work at 9600, 14,400 or 19,200 baud.

Nyquist's Theorem shows that the maximum signaling rate depends upon the band width of a channel. Claude Shannon's Theorem states that the maximum bit rate of a communications channel is related to the band width and the amount of noise on the channel. The analog, dial-up telephone

network has a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of at least 1000:1 and, remember, a band width of 3.1 kHz. Thus the theoretical channel capacity is about 30,000 bps.

Modulation Techniques

So how does a modem work? Basically a modem merely changes one or more of the characteristics of a sine wave. These changes, or *modulations*, can take several forms.

Figure 3 shows amplitude modulation, also called *Amplitude Shift Keying* (ASK). The amplitude of a sine wave is detected by the ear as volume. The figure shows two-level coding — i.e., two amplitude levels are defined and a single signal indicates the value of a single bit. In this example the low amplitude signal is a 0, and the higher amplitude is a 1.

ASK by itself is never used in modems.

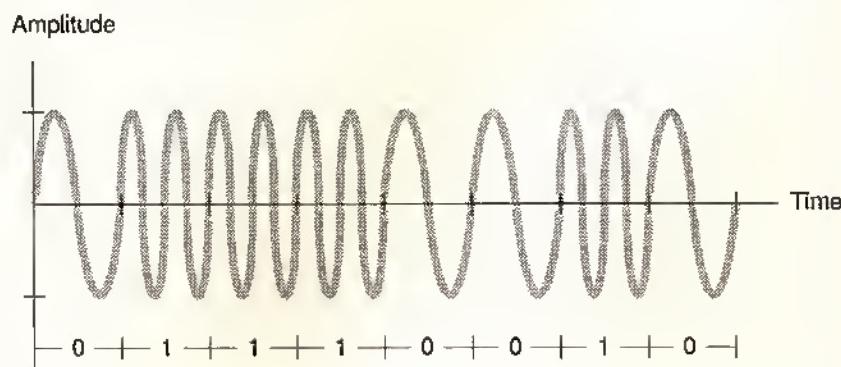


Figure 4: Frequency Shift Keying (FSK). The low and high frequency sine waves represent a 0 and 1, respectively. Note that FSK does not affect amplitude and phase shift.

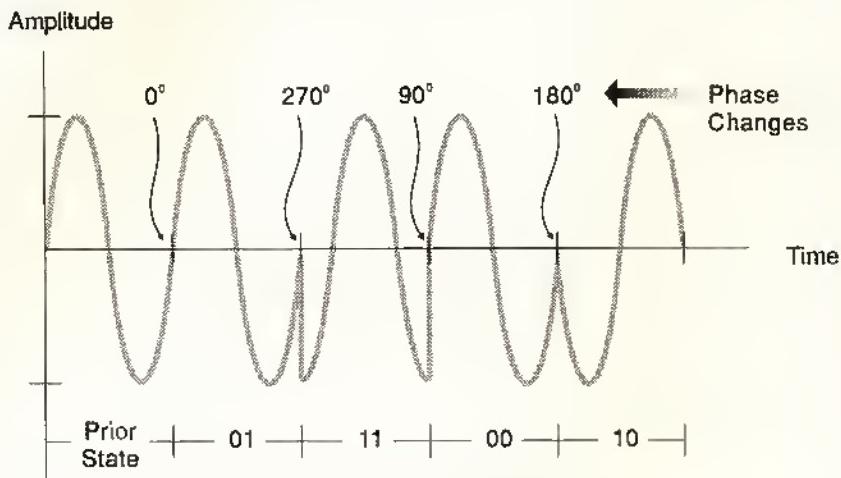


Figure 5: Differential Phase Shift Keying (DPSK). Phase changes in signal represent a pair of bits (dabit). Note that DPSK does not affect amplitude and frequency.

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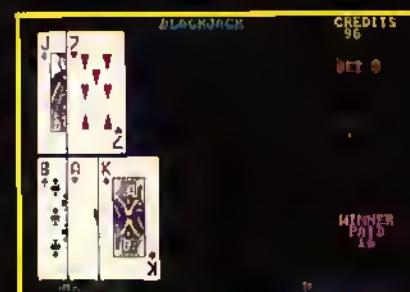
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cleared by turning off the modem or issuing the AT command; see below). This is useful in offline parameter settings or if you want to redial a number.

^C — This aborts the display of a modem's help screen (^K is sometimes used as well).

^S/^Q — When the modem is in Command mode, these are flow-control characters. Use **^S** to pause the display of information, such as help screens, from the modem; use **^Q** to resume the display.

AT — Short for *Attention*, this command "wakes up" or initializes a modem. Used alone, it clears the command buffer (which means that A/ will not recall the last real command). AT must precede all modern commands, with the exception of **++A** and control-character commands.

ATA — This toggles a modem to answer mode; use this to manually answer an incoming call.

ATCx — ATC turns a modem's transmitter on and off. ATCO turns the transmitter off so the modem will receive only (useful in direct connections). ATC1 turns the transmitter on (the default).

ATDx — This is the standard modem dial command (*D* is for *Dial*). Typically used with one or more options (*x*), followed by a phone number. When entered with an option and phone number, this sets a modem to Originate mode and dials the number. The basic options for use with ATD are P

Quadrant	Relative Amplitude	Phase Shift	Quadrant	Relative Amplitude	Phase Shift
0 0 0 0	$\sqrt{2}$	45°	1 0 0 0	$3\sqrt{2}$	45°
0 0 0 1	3	0°	1 0 0 1	5	0°
0 0 1 0	3	90°	1 0 1 0	5	90°
0 0 1 1	$\sqrt{2}$	135°	1 0 1 1	$3\sqrt{2}$	135°
0 1 0 0	3	270°	1 1 0 0	5	270°
0 1 0 1	$\sqrt{2}$	315°	1 1 0 1	$3\sqrt{2}$	315°
0 1 1 0	$\sqrt{2}$	225°	1 1 1 0	$3\sqrt{2}$	225°
0 1 1 1	3	180°	1 1 1 1	5	180°

Table 1: Amplitude and Phase Changes for Each 4-Bit Quantity (Quadrant) per CCITT Recommendation V.29 (9600 bps, 2400 baud)

The reason is that background noise, which exists on nearly all communications channels, is additive and affects the amplitude of the signal. Thus ASK is a notoriously unreliable modulation technique.

Frequency modulation, or *Frequency Shift Keying* (FSK), alters the frequency of the sine waves (Figure 4). Varying frequencies are detected by the ear as changes in pitch. In the figure the low-frequency tone is a 0 while the high frequency tone is a 1; this is also a two-level coding scheme, sending one bit per signal. FSK modems are commonly used today for low-speed applications; typically a single bit is sent with each signal.

As an example consider the Bell 103 modem standard. A Bell 103 modem operates at a speed of 0 to 300 bps (and 0 to 300 baud). Full-duplex communication is achieved by defining forward and reverse frequencies. Tones of 1070 and 1270 Hz are a 1 and 0, respectively, in one direction while 2025 and 2225 Hz tones represent 1 and 0, respectively, in the other direction. The calling modem usually uses the lower frequencies whereas the called modem usually uses the higher frequencies.

The final characteristic of a sine wave that can be modulated is the *phase angle* of the signal. Two out-of-phase sine waves re-

sult in a low-frequency hum such as that heard when tuning the strings of a piano or guitar. Modems using phase modulation usually use a technique called *Differential Phase Shift Keying* (DPSK).

Figure 5 shows an example of DPSK. The figure shows four-level coding; four different phase angles are defined so that each signal carries two bits. The following table shows the bit pair (*dibit*) values and the phase shift in the signal associated with each bit pair. These values are taken from the Bell 212 (1200 bps, 600 baud) standard:

Dibit	Phase Shift
00	90°
01	0°
10	180°
11	270°

The bit pair 00, for example, is transmitted by shifting the phase of the signal by 90° with respect to the previous signal sent; a 10 is represented by a 180° phase shift. DPSK is commonly used in moderate-speed modems operating at 1200 and 2400 bps.

Another commonly used modulation scheme, *Quadrature Amplitude Modulation* (QAM), combines both amplitude and phase modulation. QAM is used in higher-speed modems operating at 2400 bps and above. QAM signaling alters the amplitude and/or phase angle of a signal compared with the prior signal. Table 1 lists the amplitude and phase changes for each 4-bit quantity (*quadbit*) per CCITT Recommendation V.29 (9600 bps, 2400 baud).

As an example, if the 4-bit pattern 0100 were transmitted, the next sine wave sent would have a relative amplitude of 3 and would be shifted by 270° from the prior signal.

Modem Standards

There are two main sources of modem standards in use today: the Bell standards

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Modem Standard	Bit Rate	Signaling Rate	Modulation Technique
103	300	300	FSK
V.21	300	300	FSK
212	1200	600	DPSK
V.22	1200	600	DPSK
V.22bis	2400	600	QAM
V.26ter	2400	1200	DPSK
V.27	4800	1600	DPSK
V.29	4800	2400	QAM
V.32	4800	2400	QAM
V.29	7200	2400	QAM
209	9600	2400	QAM
V.29	9600	2400	QAM
V.32	9600	2400	QAM

Table 2: Common Bell and CCITT (V-Series) Modem Standards and Bit Rate, Baud and Modulation Technique Associated With Each

and CCITT V-series recommendations. Bell standards apply mostly to lower-speed modems and were developed during those years when AT&T and the Bell system owned and operated the U.S. telephone network.

The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) is a committee of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), an agency of the United Nations. CCITT V-series recommendations address digital communication over the analog telephone network.

Table 2 lists some of the most common Bell (103, 212A and 209) and CCITT (V-series) modem standards and the bit rate, baud and modulation technique associated with each. Some of the standards are listed more than once since they support fallback speeds in case the higher speed cannot be achieved for a given call.

Modem standards are very important because they allow users to determine the compatibility between a pair of modems. For example, although Bell 212 and CCITT

and T, ATDP causes the modem to dial using pulses. ATDT causes the modem to dial using tones. A typical dial-up sequence would be ATDT3711925.

Other options you may be able to use are:

- Pause for two seconds
- Switch to Command mode after dialing
- Dial the letters that follow as numbers
- @ Wait for an answer (do not "time out" after a certain number of rings).
- R Use when calling a modem that cannot answer incoming calls.

These options can appear anywhere in the command string after P or T.

ATDS — With modems that are so equipped, dials a number stored in RAM.

ATEX — This command turns Command-mode character echo on and off. ATE1 turns Command-mode character echo on, causing the modem to echo what you type when in Command mode. ATE0 turns Command-mode character echo off (the default). Useful when you are entering dialing and other commands manually so you can see what you are entering.

ATFx — ATF enables or disables the echo of data transmitted from a computer. ATF0 turns the local echo on; this status, also known as *half duplex*, echoes what you type to your screen as well as sending it to the remote system, and echoes data received back to the remote system.

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ATF1 turns local echo off; this status, also known as *full duplex*, disables echoing what you type and disables echoing data received from the remote system (this is the default). This command is useful when you dial up a system that doesn't echo what you type because it is operating at full duplex.

ATHx — This is the *on hook/off hook* command. ATH0 hangs up (disconnects) the phone line, also known as going on hook. ATH1 opens the phone line, also known as going off hook. (You'll use ATH0 more frequently.)

ATIx — This is an *inquiry* command; when followed by a number between 0 and 5, the modem responds with information about itself or its settings, such as this:

- ATI0 Displays a product code or the current speed setting.
- ATI1 Performs a ROM test.
- ATI2 Performs a RAM test.
- ATI3 Displays call duration or current time, depending on ATX setting.
- ATI4 Displays current settings.
- ATI5 Displays NRAM settings.

ATKx — This command determines whether the ATI3 command displays the current call duration or the real time. ATK0 causes ATI3 to display the call duration; ATK1 causes ATI3 to display the current time. (To set the time on most modems with the ATI3 command, type AT13=HH:MM:SS K1.)

ATMx — ATM controls a modem's speaker. ATM0 turns the speaker off. ATM1 sets the speaker to stay on until a carrier is detected (this is the default setting on most modems). ATM2 sets the speaker so that it will be on at all times — before, during and after a call. ATM3 sets the speaker to turn on after the dial string is received by the modem, then turn off at carrier detect.

ATO — This command returns you to the online mode from the command mode if you've entered the command mode using +++.

ATP — Sets the dial mode to pulse (this is the default). Many modems do not accept this alone, requiring you to use ATDP instead.

ATQx — ATQ0 disables the display of call result codes (see below). ATQ1 (the default) turns on the result codes.

ATSxn — On modems with addressable registers (bit settings in RAM), these allow you to customize certain settings. In the ATSxn command string, x is the register number and n is the numeric value placed in it. (See your modem's manual for information on register settings.)

ATSz? — This command is a query that displays the setting of the register specified.

ATT — Sets the dial mode to tone. Many modems do not accept this alone and require you to use ATDT instead.

ATVx — This command sets up the modem to display result codes as numbers (ATV0) or letters (ATV1, the default).

ATRx — On modems that support this feature, ATX followed by a number 1 through 6 enables

the display of up to 12 result codes and turns on up to four features (adaptive dialing, wait for second dial tone, etc.).

ATZ — ATZ resets the modem to its default parameters, canceling any settings you may have made using the preceding commands.

Advanced Commands

AT& — This is a prefix for advanced commands, which are not available on all modems. (To find out if a modem offers the advanced command set, type AT&\$.)

Help Commands

AT\$ — On modems that have online help, this displays a summary of extended commands and options.

AT&\$ — On modems that have online help and support the extended command set, this command displays a summary of extended commands and options.

ATD\$ — On modems with online help, this command displays a summary of dial commands.

ATS\$ — On modems with settable registers, this command displays a summary of register settings.

Modem Command and Dial Result Codes

0 OK — Displayed after you have entered a parameter setting command properly, to let you know the command was acted on.

4 ERROR — Displayed if you enter something that is not a command or if you enter a command using the wrong syntax or an impossible option number.

1 CONNECT — Displayed when a remote system answers, an advanced result codes option (ATX1 through ATX6) is not set.¹

5 CONNECT 1200 — When an advanced result codes option is set, this is displayed when the modem senses a remote system answering at 1200 bps.

10 CONNECT 2400 — When an advanced result codes option is set, this is displayed when the modem senses a remote system answering at 2400 bps.

3 NO CARRIER — This is displayed when a remote system disconnects.

6 NO DIAL TONE — This is displayed when the modem attempts to make a call and can't get a dial tone.

7 BUSY — When the modem makes a call and detects a busy signal, it displays this message and disconnects.

2 RING — Displayed each time the phone rings after a call is made until the remote system answers or the number of rings required to display NO ANSWER is reached.

1t RINGING — At higher ATX settings this replaces RING.

8 NO ANSWER — The modem displays this setting (rather than NO CARRIER) and disconnects after a predetermined number of rings if you have used the @ option with a dial string.

12 VOICE — When the modem makes a call and detects a voice answering, it displays this message and disconnects.

¹If a modem has Automatic Repeat Request error protocol, it may display CONNECT/ARQ, CONNECT 1200/ARQ, or CONNECT 2400/ARQ with certain extended command and DIP switch settings.

— Michael A. Banks

V.22 modems both use DPSK and operate at 1200 bps, a Bell 212 modem cannot communicate with a V.22 modem since the phase angle shifts are different. It is important, then, to check the standard(s) supported by a given modem to ensure its compatibility with other modems.

Table 2 also demonstrates clearly the difference between baud and bit rate. I understand the reality of advertisements for 300, 1200 and 2400 baud modems; I would observe that, technically speaking, most of those advertisements are not correct. I would further claim that most people don't care about the signaling rate anyway; they only care about the bit rate.

Final Comments

Several final comments should be made. Many people would like to be able to convert the bit rate of a modem to a character transmission rate. The bit rate can usually be converted to character transfer rate by dividing the bit rate by 10 (i.e., a 300-bps modem can transfer roughly 30 characters per second). This is only a rough estimate, however. First, it assumes asynchronous transmission using an 8-bit data word and a 1-bit stop interval. Second, a modem may not be able to sustain a calculated character transfer rate due to flow control procedures. Take this conversion, then, with the appropriate grain of salt.

Many modems specify *Hayes compatibility*. This does not refer to a modulation technique; rather, it refers to the user/modem command set, which Hayes calls the AT, or Attention, command set. For example, in the Hayes command language, the command AT DT 555-9138 instructs the modem to dial (D) the telephone number 555-9138 using tone (T) rather than pulse dialing. Other command languages use a different syntax for this same instruction. Knowing the command set is necessary before a user and/or communications software package can control a modem. The command language is independent of the modem's operating speed and modulation technique; it merely allows the user to send commands to control the operation of the modem.

Finally, the discussion presented here applies to both internal (as are often used with MS-DOS machines) and external modems. The only difference between these two types is that an internal modem is plugged directly into a computer's back plane and an external modem attaches to a terminal or computer via a serial port, as shown in Figure 1. As far as the telephone network is concerned, its termination is at the modem regardless of whether the modem is inside or outside of the device sending and receiving digital information.

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Shifting Gears

by Marty Goodman
Contributing Editor

The manual for OS-9 suggests there is a dual speed feature with the operating system. How do I access it, and how is it used? Can you recommend a good monochrome monitor for the CoCo 3? Where can I find a list of parts for the CoCo 3? Can I get a better buy if I try to buy a CoCo 3 motherboard without ROM or RAM?

Carl F. Merkel
Kincora, Ontario

According to several OS-9 experts I have consulted, the dual-speed feature is not useful. The system runs too slowly at single speed. It is true that in BASIC09 you can poke \$FF68 with a value and slow down the computer. The only use I can see for this would be to accommodate an improperly designed hardware card that has trouble running at the higher speed.

The pleasantly surprising fact is that most monochrome monitors are of excellent quality, and almost any one should work well. Many persons prefer amber to green screens, and some use black-and-white (closed-circuit TV-type) monitors, but this is mostly a matter of personal preference. There are (or were) literally hundreds of brands made; I am familiar with only a few of them.

Connect your CoCo to whatever monitor you are considering purchasing. There is no substitute for looking at the image on

the monitor. All the manufacturer's specs in the world are meaningless without that "proof in the pudding" test.

To the best of my knowledge, the only way to buy CoCo 3s is as whole units. Your best bet is to buy a CoCo 3 on sale. As for parts, just order the service manual for the CoCo 3, and it will list the part numbers. (Prices are not listed in the manual.) You can order the service manual from your local Radio Shack store or from any of a number of THE RAINBOW advertisers, then request price quotes on one or more of the parts you want from Tandy National Parts via your local Radio Shack store.

Hard Drive Controllers

I'm considering buying a used Radio Shack hard drive system for the CoCo 3 (Radio Shack host adapter, and Model 3 to-Meg hard drive and controller). I want to use it with Disk BASIC. Will this work? Is it a good deal at \$350?

Hartlen Linke (HARLIN)
Mainslee, Michigan

The old Radio Shack host adapter and the hard drive system it works with are *orphan* units. Very few of the host adapters were ever made, and they are not well supported, especially under Disk BASIC (the systems were intended for use only with OS-9.) Furthermore, the going rate for a used 10-Meg drive is around \$40 to \$80. A SCSI controller can be found for somewhere between \$50 and \$150. A case and power supply will add another \$50 to \$100 to the overall cost.

To use a hard drive system exclusively with Disk BASIC, I would recommend RGB DOS from RGB Systems. This is by far the most compatible with existing Disk BASIC programs. RGB DOS works with any SCSI-based hard drive system on the CoCo 3. This means it will work with the host adapters and SCST controllers from RGB,

Owl-Ware or Disto/CRC. Unfortunately, because the (very economical) Burke and Burke hard drive set-up does not use a SCSI controller, but rather is locked into an IBM-style controller that writes 512 (not 256) byte sectors, RGB DOS cannot be used with it. While I tend to recommend Burke and Burke in many situations, if your use is to be entirely Disk BASIC, the RGB software (actually firmware, for it is burned into an EPROM) combined with some SCST-based host adapter, controller, and hard drive would likely be best for you.

MNP Error-Correction

Can you explain to me about MNP error correction?

Dan Monday (DANMONDAY)
West Bend, Wisconsin

Some of the more expensive 2400- and 9600-baud modems (costing between \$170 and \$1000) now feature Microcom Networking Protocol in their firmware. Such a modem performs automatic error-checking if it is connected with another MNP modem. Also, if both modems support MNP Class 5, they will perform data compression and decompression, resulting in an effective doubling of throughput in some cases. The error-checking and correction is handled in a way similar to that of Xmodem. The difference is that it is transparent to the user, since it is being done by the modems. All the computer sees is ordinary data going to or from the modem, as if the modem were a normal (non-MNP) modem. The data an MNP modem receives, if it is talking to another MNP modem, will be error free. For this reason, you can transfer files with an MNP-to-MNP connection without Xmodem.

To allow for the higher throughput achieved by the data compression, MNP Class 5 modems that hook up at 2400 baud to the phone line typically connect to the host computer at 4800 or 9600 baud.

Marty H. Goodman, M.D., a physician trained in anesthesiology, is a longtime electronics tinkerer and outspoken commentator — sort of the Howard Cosell of the CoCo world. On Delphi, Marty is the SICOP of RAINBOW's CoCo SIG and database manager of OS-9 Online. His non-computer passions include running, mountaineering and outdoor photography. Marty lives in San Pablo, California.

Practically speaking, MNP is of limited use to most CoCo users. Between the relatively small size of CoCo files, and the effectiveness of Ymodem and the various CoCo archiving/compression programs, there are few CoCo users who will get real value out of the extra cost of MNP. Similarly, most PC-compatible users will not likely have a need for MNP. Between the excellent archiving and compression programs, and the effectiveness of Zmodem, it is only a minority of users (such as California doctors required by the AMA to do direct billing via MNP modems) who will benefit from spending the extra money for this feature.

Foreign Power Revisited

Can a CoCo 3 be powered by a foreign source of power that is 110 volts, but only 50 (not 60) cycles? What problems will this cause? Are the PIA and CPUs of Models 26-3127 and 26-3127B CoCo 2s the same? Can they be switched?

TJ Seagrove (TJSEAGROVE)
North Charleston, South Carolina

The CoCo and monitor should both run on a 110-volt, 50-Hz source of power. The only harm possible may be that the transformer will run a bit hot, since its efficiency will be less at 50-Hz. Since the CoCo, the add-on boards (including clock boards), and the monitor derive none of their timing from the power-line frequency, there should be no problems related to improper timing.

The PIAs and CPUs are the same in both the 26-3127 and the 26-3127B CoCo 2s. The only difference between these computers is the video display generator (VDG) chip and the memory manager chip. Note, however, that each CoCo has two PIA chips, and they are not the same. Exchange the 6821 chip for another 6821, and exchange the custom keyboard PIA chip with only another similar custom keyboard PIA chip.

Fried RAM (and Eggs)?

I recently made an interesting discovery. I had fried some memory on a 512K RAM upgrade board for my CoCo 3. I no longer had any 4464 or 41256 chips around, and had to order spares. While waiting for the new chips to arrive, I looked over the circuit for the upgrade and decided the 512K upgrade board might work as a 128K board if I plugged in 4164-15 chips. I had lots of spare

4164 chips; I tried them and it works. So, if you have a DRAM chip die on your 512K board, and if you have spare 4164 chips, you can limp along using them in your upgrade board until you get new 41256 chips.

Dennis McMillian (COCOKIWI)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Thanks for the tip!

Q & A Grab Bag

I have a CoCo 3 with a GIME chip dated 1987. Is this the latest revision? The memory chips in the machine have a -15 suffix. This means they are 150ns chips. I thought access times of 120ns or better were required. Is the catalog number 26-3334 CoCo 3 the latest one released? Where can I get modpatch? It is not listed in the OS-9 manuals.

Michael Cheskla
Austin, Texas

The 1987 GIME chip is the latest revision. I recommend 120ns chips, but I have found no reports of problems with the chips rated for 150ns. If the timing for the CoCo 3 is carefully calculated, you will find that, at 2 MHz, access times of about 143ns are required. This is close enough to be within the margins of virtually all 150ns rated chips. Also, catalog number 26-3334 is the only version of the CoCo 3, though other releases had earlier-revision (1986) GIME chips in them. modpatch is included with the OS-9 Level 1 package. However, it is documented in the *Development System* manual from Tandy.

TS/Edit Update

OS-9 users of TS/Edit will be happy to learn that a new, improved version of the 80-column patch is now available on the Delphi OS-9 STG.

Rick Adams (RICKADAMS)
Santa Rosa, California

Sync Separator Simplified

Marty, based on information you gave me about sync-separator circuits, I produced a simplified sync separator that works perfectly for connecting a Tandy CM-8 monitor to a Sega Genesis game machine's RGB output. Here's how to do it.

Send the negative composite sync from the Sega Genesis through a 10K ohm resistor into the base of a general-purpose NPN

transistor (2N222A or 2N4401 or similar). Hook the collector of that transistor to the tisync input on the CM-8. Hook the emitter of that transistor to the base of another NPN transistor. Hook the emitter of this second transistor to ground, and hook the collector of that transistor to the VSync input of the CM-8.

This technique produces a perfect picture on my CM-8 when I use it with my Sega Genesis. The image on the CM-8 is far superior to that produced when I hook a TV or composite monitor to the Sega.

For reference, if you look at the 8-pin Sega Genesis video connector, starting at 1 o'clock (just to the right of the notch) going clockwise, the pins are Red, Audio, +5 volts, ground, Green, Composite Video and Negative Sync at 11 o'clock, with the Blue signal on the center pin.

As most CoCo hackers know, the pinout for the CM-8 is as follows:

Pin	Function
1,2	ground
3,4,5	R, G & B inputs
6	keyhole—NIC
7	audio input
8,9	H- and VSync inputs
10	ignore/do not use

Robert Louden
Thornhill, Ontario

Your technical questions are welcomed. Please address them to CoCo Consultations, THERAINBOW, P. O. Box 385, Prospect, KY 40059.

We reserve the right to publish only questions of general interest and to edit for brevity and clarity. Due to the large volume of mail we receive, we are unable to answer letters individually.

Questions can also be sent to Marty through the Delphi CoCo SIG. From the CoCo SIG> prompt, pick Rainbow Magazine Services. Then at the RAINBOW> prompt, type ASK (for Ask the Experts) to arrive at the EXPERTS> prompt, where you can select the "CoCo Consultations" online form, which has complete instructions.

Novices Niche

Your Age in Days by Richard Barberian

This intriguing program calculates any person's age in the number of days since he was born. Simply enter the current date along with the person's birth date to make this transformation. The program even considers leap years in its calculations! You can also try entering dates of historic events to find out exactly how many days ago they occurred. The calculation can be computed into weeks for a slightly different perspective. Be aware that this program may make you feel a lot older than you really are!

The Listing: AGEODAYS

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```

10 REM *****
20 REM *** AGE IN DAYS ***
30 REM ***** BY *****
40 REM RICHARD BARBERIAN JR.
50 REM *****
60 DIM CM(50),BM(50),M(50)
70 CLS
80 FOR I = 1 TO 12:READ CM(I):NE
XT I
90 FOR I = 1 TO 12:READ BM(I):NE
XT I
100 FOR I = 1 TO 12:READ M(I):NE
XT I
110 INPUT"ENTER TODAY'S DATE IN
FORM MM,DD,YY":CC,CD,CY
120 INPUT"ENTER BIRTHDATE IN FOR
M MM,DD,YY":BB,BD,BY
130 CM-CM(CC):TCD=CM+CD
140 BM-BM(BB):BO=M(BB)-BO:TBD-BM
+BD
150 TY-CY-BY:TD=((TY-1)*365)+INT
(TY/4)+TCD+TBD+1
160 IF TDC<0 THEN CLS:GOTO 120
170 CLS:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
180 TW = TD/7
190 PRINT TAB(8);"YOU'VE BEEN AL
IVE"
200 PRINT USING "#.###.
###";TO
210 PRINT TAB(14);"DAYS"
220 PRINT
230 PRINT TAB(14);":AND ":PRINT
240 PRINT USING "#.###.
###";TW
250 PRINT TAB(13);"WEEKS"
260 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT" (PRESS
ANY KEY TO CONTINUE)"
270 A$= INKEY$:IF A$=""THEN 270
280 CLS:GOTO 120
290 DATA 0,31,59,90,120,151,181,
212,243,273,304,334
300 DATA 334,304,273,243,212,181,
151,120,90,59,31,0
310 DATA 31,28,31,30,31,30,31,31,
,30,31,30,31

```

SMALL BUSINESS ACCOUNTING

This sales-based accounting package is designed for the non-accountant oriented businessman. It also contains the flexibility for the accounting oriented user to set up a double entry journal with an almost unlimited chart of accounts. Includes Sales Entry, transaction driven Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable, Journal Entry, Payroll Disbursement, and Record Maintenance programs. System outputs include Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Customer and Vendor status Reports, Accounts Receivable and Payable Aging Reports, Check Register, Sales Reports, Account Status Lists, and a Journal Posting List.

\$79.95

INVENTORY CONTROL/SALES ANALYSIS

This module is designed to handle Inventory control, with user defined product codes, and produce a detailed analysis of the business' sales and the sales force. One may enter/update inventory data, enter sales, run five sales analysis reports, run five inventory reports, set up product codes, enter/update salesman records, and update the SBAP inventory.

\$59.95

PAYROLL

Designed for maintaining personnel and payroll data for up to 200 hourly and salaried employees with 8 deductions each. Calculates payroll and tax amounts, prints checks and maintains year-to-date totals which can be automatically transferred to the SBA package. Computes each pay period's totals for straight time, overtime and bonus pay and determines taxes to be withheld. Additional outputs include mailing list, listing of employees, year-to-date Federal and/or state tax listing, and a listing of current misc. deductions. Suited for use in all states except Oklahoma and Delaware.

\$59.95

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Includes detailed audit trails and history reports for each customer, prepares invoices and monthly statements, mailing labels, aging lists, and an alphabetized customer listing. The user can define net terms for commercial accounts or finance charges for revolving accounts. This package functions as a standalone A/R system or integrates with the Small Business Accounting package.

\$59.95

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Designed for the maintenance of vendor and A/P invoice files. The system prints checks, voids checks, cancels checks, deletes cancelled checks, and deletes paid A/P invoices. The user can run a Vendor List, Vendor Status report, Vendor Aged report, and an A/P Check Register. This package can be used either as a standalone A/P system or can be integrated with the Small Business Accounting Package.

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Automating the Online Experience

by Dale L.Puckett
Contributing Editor

Since communications is the theme for this month, now seems a good time to think about a program I've needed for a long time. One thing that keeps many people from taking advantage of online services such as Delphi, CompuServe and GENIE is the prohibitive cost. It can take a long time to browse for the answer to a troublesome question or find a well-hidden program online while the meter ticks every second. And if you're a beginner, it can take even longer.

Someone needs to create a way to automate the online process in a program that will allow you to do most of your browsing offline. Wouldn't you then take advantage of the powerful databases found on these services? Why wait for someone else to develop this program when you can write it yourself? I'll show you some concepts this month that may help you to become the author of the next software best seller.

Designing AutoDelphi

To get an idea for some features to include in your own automatic Delphi navigator, take a look at Figure 1, which shows a possible menu layout for such a program. The features shown provide an entry-level functionality that you will probably want to enhance later. Feel free to add to your menu the functions you need.

The code needed to set up the Main menu as well as the items on the Session menu are shown in Listing 1. For more

details on setting up a menu using WindInt and the calls built into Kevin Darling's new version of gfx2, review the menu code in the *MVFinance* program (April 1990, Page 52). The WindInt module comes with *Multi-Vue*, and it replaces the standard OS-9 GrfInt module. The new gfx2 module is available online in the OS-9 SIGs on Delphi and CompuServe. The *MVFinance* listings in the April and July 1990 issues show several different ways to run procedures that perform tasks selected from a menu.

Let's look at each menu and describe the action needed for each item. As you read about these menus, keep in mind they are *ideas* for a program you can write. I'll skip the Tandy menu because it works almost exactly like the Tandy menu in *Multi-Vue*. For information on how to include the Tandy menu functions in your own programs, study the code in the subroutine at Line 1000 of the DoMenu program (November 1988, Page 178). Remember, all the procedures from "KISSable OS-9" are available on RAINBOW ON DISK and also online in the RAINBOW ON DISK section of the OS-9 SIG on Delphi. Either source saves you a lot of typing.

On the File menu, New allows you to create a new set of session parameters. For example, you may want to create one session that uses the OS-9 Online SIG of Delphi and another that uses the CoCo SIG. Open allows you to open the session file you need, while Close closes both the window in which the present session is running and the session itself.

Save lets you save the current set of parameters in the session file—use it after you have changed any of a session's settings. Should you edit the current set of parameters and want to save it while keeping the original settings, use the Save As option. With Print you get a hardcopy of a selected message during a review of a ses-

sion. Quit stops the program, closes the window and leaves you at the OS-9 prompt where you started.

The items on the Edit menu use a clipboard, either a temporary file or a data module, to transfer selected data in and out of your program. You should be able to select a series of characters, copy them to your clipboard and paste them into another application or elsewhere in your current application. If you select Copy, a copy of the selected text is put on the clipboard and the original text remains in its present position. If you select Cut, the selected text is placed on the clipboard and is removed from the document. Paste is used to place clipboard data into the document at a selected point. Clear is used to delete selected text from a document without saving a copy on the clipboard.

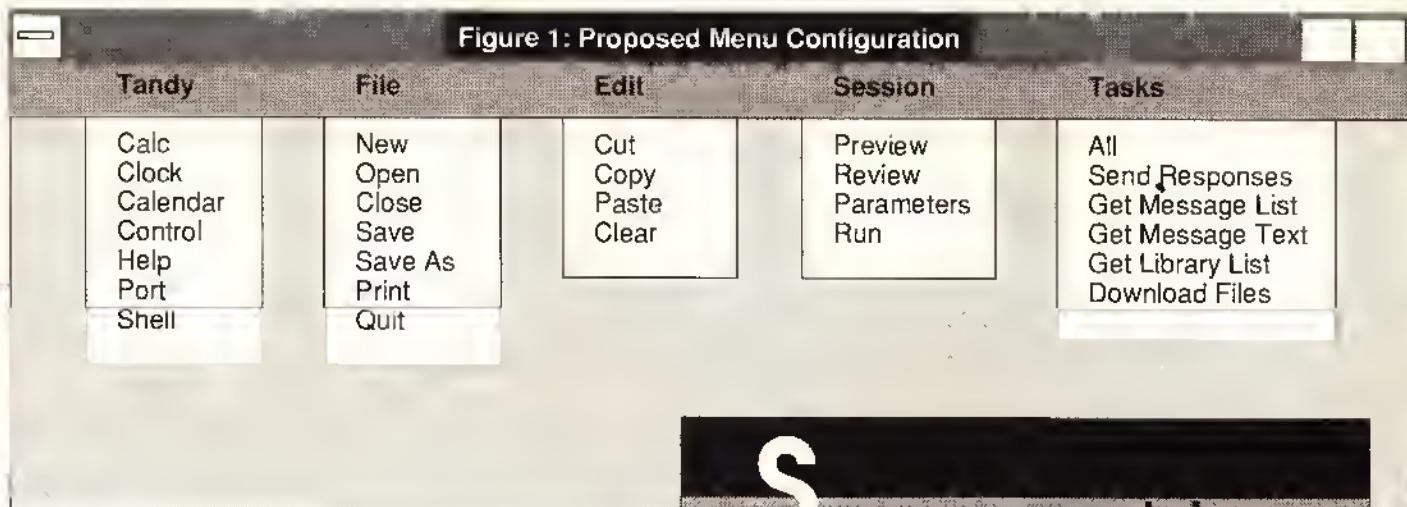
The remaining menus are specific to *AutoDelphi* and are used to tell the program what actions to take while online. From the Session menu, Preview shows what will happen when your computer logs onto Delphi. As your program grows you can add features to let you make changes at this stage.

Most of the time you spend with *AutoDelphi* will involve the Review feature. It is with Review that you read all messages, write replies and select the files you want *AutoDelphi* to download. Parameters is used less frequently. Parameters lets you set up your user ID, password, telephone number and other technical parameters that allow your Color Computer to communicate with your modem. After you've set the parameters, selected the messages you want to read, written your replies and selected files for downloading, select Run from the Session menu. *AutoDelphi* calls Delphi, logs on and follows your instructions.

The subroutines called from the Tasks menu should be fairly easy to write. Each

Dale L. Puckett, a freelance writer and programmer, serves as director-at-large of the OS-9 Users Group and is a member of the Computer Press Association. His user-name on Delphi is DALEP; on packet-radio, KOHYD @ N4QQ; on GENIE, D.PUCKETT2; and on CIS, 71446.736.

Figure 1: Proposed Menu Configuration



menu item is used to set one or more Boolean variables that tell *AutoDelphi* which actions to perform online. If you select All at the top of the menu, the program will set all the Boolean variables to TRUE and perform all actions. On the other hand, if you select only Send Response, the program will not get a list of forum messages, read any messages, list any library directories or download any files.

Remember, if you do not own *MultiVue*, you can substitute text-based menus (like those used in the *Grade Book* program in September) for the mouse-driven menus made possible by the *WindInt* module and the new *gfx2* routines.

Researching Delphi

When you begin a project like writing *AutoDelphi*, I suggest you start on a small scale and keep things simple. This allows you to get most of your core code working flawlessly. Once the core is operating properly, additional features can be easily attached to the existing core.

A full-scale *AutoDelphi* would allow you to preselect and enter any forum on Delphi. The program should be able to read the news, get your mail and take care of business in four or five forums, all in one session. To make this project easier, the outline presented here is limited to entering only one forum at a time. Since you can create and maintain many different session files, the program's functionality isn't hampered greatly. Besides, the program is easier to write with this restriction.

Before writing any code, you should thoroughly research Delphi's command set. Essentially, *AutoDelphi* will be issuing commands to the online service just as you did when you logged on manually. While it is running, the program records the session and gives you a chance to review it later. To do this it must know which commands to

issue to Delphi and what to expect in return.

When you begin a complex project, you need to determine how much of the work you want to create from scratch. If there are existing tools that perform part of the job, it is advantageous to use them. Little is accomplished by re-inventing the wheel. To get a jump on *AutoDelphi*, consider adding it as an extension to a program such as *WizPro*, a shareware terminal program available from Bill Brady, 1503-t Flanders Lane, Harwood, MD 20776, 301-952-1761. The shareware registration fee is \$40. Mind you, you don't need *WizPro* to write *AutoDelphi*. I only suggest it as one alternative to writing the entire program yourself.

If you initiate the program from its inception, you must create and manage the needed windows yourself. You'll need to establish a series of paths to talk to the various windows and external ports. You will also need to define all the fonts, buffers, palettes and menus needed by your program. Writing *AutoDelphi* as an extension to *WizPro* means this work is done for you. Your program is easily installed as a menu selection within *WizPro*.

Registered *WizPro* users receive the source code of a pseudo-procedure named Type4. This code provides a complete parameter set. If you use Type4, TYPE and PARAM definitions in your program, *WizPro* will be able to pass the status of its variables to your program when it is run. You can also use these same variables in your own program. With Type4, much of the dirty

Someone needs to create a way to automate the online process in a program that will allow you to do most of your browsing offline.

work necessary to construct the special set of data types needed for a communications program has been done. You can let *WizPro*'s AutoLog feature log you onto Delphi. Once online, you can enter the *WizPro* menu key that runs your *AutoDelphi* program and let things rip.

Several variables are accessible to you if *AutoDelphi* is written as an extension of *WizPro*. Paths, of the type wpaths, has defined paths to the ACIA driver, a status window, a small window along the bottom of the screen, a disk file and the printer. There is a field named Nextproc that can be used to pass a filename, fields that hold the path to the file holding information unique to the host, the current and last filenames used for downloads, a serial path descriptor, the input path descriptor that was in place when you started *WizPro* and a current path descriptor that can be changed on the fly while your program is running.

Once you have put these Type4 definitions at the beginning of your program, you can clear the small window at the bottom of the screen by adding the line, PUT #paths.wpa.cntrl.cls to your code. Or, you can send a macro to the modem by entering, PUT #paths.sp.bufs.mac(1). Most of the online work for your program involves getting a line of text from Delphi via the modem port and writing it on the

screen and/or in a log file. Command strings must also be sent to Delphi. The three lines below do the trick.

```
GET #paths.sp.bufs.klin  
PRINT bufs.klin  
PUT #paths.dpa.bufs.klin
```

You will probably want *AutoDelphi* to feed you status reports in a separate window while it runs. When you first log onto Delphi, send the /BUSY command to prevent interference with your automatic session from messages that announce arriving mail and pages from conference users. Assuming that you use *WizPro*'s AutoLog feature to get on Delphi, and that you have previously set up Delphi to go directly to the OS-9 Online STG, some of the code needed within *AutoDelphi* might look like the pseudo-code shown in Listing 2. Before trying these experiments, you should set your Delphi screen length parameter to 0 (/LENGTH=0) and the prompt mode to brief (/PROMPT=BRIEF). The first setting keeps Delphi from sending you the More? prompt every 24 lines. The second tells Delphi to send a short one line prompt to you each time it needs input. You will no longer need to wait for the long menus to scroll by.

Remember, the code above is a fragment designed to show what needs to be done in a typical automated Delphi session. If your completed program is menu- and mouse-driven, call it by clicking on the Run option on the Session menu.

If you are writing *AutoDelphi* from scratch, you must open paths to all the path variables and dimension all the buffers and other variables. If you plan to use the code above as part of an extension to *WizPro*, check the flag variables to see if the paths are already open. If they're still closed, open them. For example, to see if the path to the status window is open, you need to check the value of the Boolean field, flags.spaopen:

```
IF NOT flags.spaopen THEN  
OPEN #paths.spa.win.stat  
flags.spaopen:=TRUE  
ENDIF
```

After GeneralFlow has been run, you will have a file named *DelphiLog* stored in the current data directory. The code you write for the Review option would be executed next. It should let you go through the *DelphiLog* file and mark the message threads you want to read and the files you want to

download the next time you run *AutoDelphi*. You will want to include the ability to write a reply to a message.

When you write the final program, store many of the command strings in variables that can be set to different values and repeated. For example, to read a message thread, you will need to send a command of the form, READ THREAD 31096 NS to Delphi. Since you may mark any number of message threads to read when you review your *DelphiLog* file, you'll need a variable in the place of the 31096 in the above command string. Your new program line might look something like:

```
PRINT #paths.sp,"READ THREAD "; Threadnum; " NS"
```

A project of this magnitude goes far beyond the scope of a three-page magazine article, but I wanted you to consider an exciting undertaking that could result in increased excitement in the CoCo community. BASIC09 makes the job more enjoyable since it allows you to write and perfect one module at a time until you have a finished product. In the meantime each individual module will be usable on its own. Go ahead, give it a try! Tell me about

MLBASIC 2.0 - BASIC Compiler

If you want your BASIC programs to run up to 50 times faster, or want more programming features without learning another language, MLBASIC is for you.

MLBASIC is the most compatible BASIC compiler available for the Color Computer. WHY? Because MLBASIC fully supports:

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MLBASIC not only contains everything that you would expect a BASIC programming language should contain, MLBASIC has features that offer flexibility of other languages like C, Pascal, FORTRAN and even assembly language. These features will allow programmers to directly access the CPU registers on the COCO, produce modular program code with SUBROUTINES, manipulate memory in blocks, and even call ROM routines in other areas of memory.

MLBASIC revision 2.0 has incorporated all enhancements that were suggested by MLBASIC 1.0 users and more. Revision 2.0 did away with all the incompatibility problems that existed with revision 1.0.

MLBASIC allows for the first time user to quickly compile a program using default compiler settings. The advanced user has the capability of controlling over a dozen settings which control where the program is compiled, which medium to compile to (memory or disk), string space, compiler listings and more.

With all this going for MLBASIC, you might expect the cost to be a little out of your budget. After looking at prices of other BASIC compilers for the COCO 3 you might be correct. But look again at this ad; for only \$59.95, you can have a programming language that will spark your interest once again in the COCO.

Before you buy another BASIC compiler for the COCO, find out if it supports everything MLBASIC supports. Then look at the price tag. We feel that it won't be long before you place an order for MLBASIC.

"MLBASIC is a fine program for any serious programmer."
said David Gerald in the December 1987 RAINBOW.

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R	USES YOUR TERMS. 16/32K \$ 8 Ppd	F	F
*			
C	MATHEMATICS DRILL SERIES: interactive, multi	A	A
O	user, feedback, user-selected problem types	C	C
M	and limits, reward game, screen/hard scores	T	T
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U		O	O
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3	equivalent fracs. 16/32K \$ 8 Ppd	E	E
*	MIXEDNUM uses mixed number/improper fraction	E	E
*	or combined format. 16/32K \$ 8 Ppd	D	D
*	EQUIVLNT for fraction/decimal/percent swap of	*	*
D	common values. 16/32K \$ 8 Ppd	O	O
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E	House NM 88121 (505)-279-6455	X	X

your progress. If you're a distributor and think the idea has potential, get in touch with me on Delphi and I'll work with you.

StG's Login Package

Along the line of communications, Scott T. Griepentrog of StG Computers, Inc. has been working on an interesting project. If you are fortunate enough to live in a metropolitan area where a number of OS-9 users are within a local telephone call of each other, you might want to gather and consider Griepentrog's *Login Package*.

Griepentrog's *Login Package* is a program you can use to network a number of OS-9 users together. It has built-in facilities to handle news and private mail. You can also use it to chat with another user who has logged on to your Color Computer. If the SysOp gives you permission, you can also log into a Shell and run programs on another user's computer. Scott can be contacted at Box 24285, Speedway, IN 46224 or by phone at 317-241-6401 for more information. You can also talk to Scott's computer if you call 317-244-3159. His is an interesting and useful package.

While on the subject of communications, J. Frank Fields, an avid OS-9/Unix hacker and amateur radio operator (KBOQJ) recently sent me a note via SMTP over the

amateur radio TCP/IP network. He forwarded a message that had originated on a CoCo Packet Radio BBS in Arkansas. If you're on the air and looking for a packet BBS, send a note to W3SV@W3SV.AR.USA.NA (COCO BBS) Batesville, AR Z:72501. Let me know how you're using your CoCo on packet radio.

Send a note to KOHYD@WFOA.SKS.K S.USA.NA Wichita, KS Z:67216. WFOA will automatically forward it to me via SMTP.

Hope your creative juices were awakened this month. Until December, keep on hacking!

OS-9 Level II

Listing 1:

```
PROCEDURE MenuSetup
0000      (* Set aside memory for menu *)
001F      DIM DelWin(6):STRING
002B      DIM TanMen(7):STRING
0037      DIM FilMen(7):STRING
0043      DIM EdMen(4):STRING
004F      DIM SessMen(4):STRING
005B      DIM TaskMen(6):STRING
0067
0068      (* Display the Menu Bar *)
0082      RUN gfx2("Title",DelWin,"AutoDelphi",80,24,5)
00AA
00AB      (* Set up Session Menu *)
00C4      RUN gfx2("Menu",DelWin,4,"Session",MN_Sess,10,8,SessMen,Enable)
00F7      RUN gfx2("Item",SessMen,1,"Preview",Enable)
011A      RUN gfx2("Item",SessMen,2,"Review",Enable)
013C      RUN gfx2("Item",SessMen,3,"Parameters",Enable)
0162      RUN gfx2("Item",SessMen,4,"Run",Enable)
0181
0182      (* Set up window and display menus *)
```

Listing 2:

```
PROCEDURE GeneralFlow
0000      OPEN #paths.dpa,"DelphiLog":UPDATE \(* Open file for Delphi Log *)
0036      PUT #paths.spa,cntrl.cls \(* Clear Status window *)
0061      PRINT #paths.spa,"Tell others we're BUSY!"; \(* Report action to user *)
00A1      PRINT #paths.sp."/BUSY" \(* Send command to Delphi *)
00CF      REPEAT
0001          READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin \(* Get input from Delphi *)
00FE      UNTIL SUBSTR("OS9>",bufs.klin)<>0
0113      PUT #paths.spa,cntrl.cls
0125      PRINT #paths.spa,"Getting Mail";
013F      PRINT #paths.sp."/MAIL" \(* Issue Command to Delphi *)
0160      REPEAT
016F          READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin \(* Get line of input from Delphi *)
01A4      UNTIL SUBSTR("MAIL>",bufs.klin)<>0
01BA      PRINT #paths.sp."/EXTRACT /ALL TT" \(* Read all the mail *)
01ED      REPEAT
01EF          READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin \(* Get a line *)
0211          PRINT bufs.klin \(* Display it on screen *)
0233          PRINT #paths.dpa,bufs.klin \(* And put it in Log File *)
0260      UNTIL SUBSTR("MAIL>",bufs.klin)<>0
0276      PRINT #paths.sp."/EXIT"
0287      REPEAT
0289          READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin
029B      UNTIL SUBSTR("DS9>",bufs.klin)<>0
02B0      PUT #paths.spa,cntrl.cls \(* Clear Status window *)
02DB      PRINT #paths.spa,"Checking Graphics Data Library";
0307      PRINT #paths.sp."/DATABASE" \(* Issue Command to Delphi *)
0339      REPEAT
033B          READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin
034D      UNTIL SUBSTR("TOPIC>",bufs.klin)<>0
0364      PRINT #paths.sp."/GRAPHICS" \(* Send Command *)
038B      REPEAT
038D          READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin
039F      UNTIL SUBSTR("DBASES:Gra>",bufs.klin)<>0
```

```

03BB PRINT #paths.sp,"DIR NS" \(* Send Command to Delphi *)
03EA REPEAT
03EC   READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin \(* Get line *)
040C     PRINT bufs.klin \(* Display *)
0421     PRINT #paths.dpa,bufs.klin \(* Save in Log File *)
0448 UNTIL SUBSTR("DBASES:Gra>",bufs.klin)<>0
0464 PRINT #paths.sp,"EXIT"
0475 REPEAT
0477   READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin
0489 UNTIL SUBSTR("OS9>",bufs.klin)<>0
049E PUT #paths.spa,cntrl.cls \(* Clear Status window *)
04C9 PRINT #paths.spa,"Reading Our Messages!";
04EC PRINT #paths.sp,"FORUM" \(* Command to Delphi *)
0515 REPEAT
0517   READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin
0529 UNTIL SUBSTR("FORUM>",bufs.klin)<>0
0540 PRINT #paths.sp,"READ WAITING NS" \(* Issue Command to Delphi *)
0579 REPEAT
057B   READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin
0580     PRINT bufs.klin
0595     WRITE #paths.dpa,bufs.klin
05A6 UNTIL SUBSTR("FORUM>",bufs.klin)<>0
05B0 PUT #paths.spa,cntrl.cls \(* Clear Status window *)
05E8 PRINT #paths.spa,"Getting List of New Messages!";
0613 PRINT #paths.sp,"DIR NEW NS" \(* Issue Command to Delphi *)
0647 REPEAT
0649   READ #paths.sp,bufs.klin
065B     PRINT bufs.klin
0663     PRINT #paths.dpa,bufs.klin
0674 UNTIL SUBSTR("FORUM>",bufs.klin)<>0
0688 PUT #paths.spa,cntrl.cls \(* Clear Status window *)
06B6 PRINT #paths.spa,"Signing Off Delphi!";
06D7 PRINT #paths.sp,"BYE" \(* Issue Command to Delphi *)
0704 CLOSE #paths.dpa \(* Close path to Delphi Log *)

```

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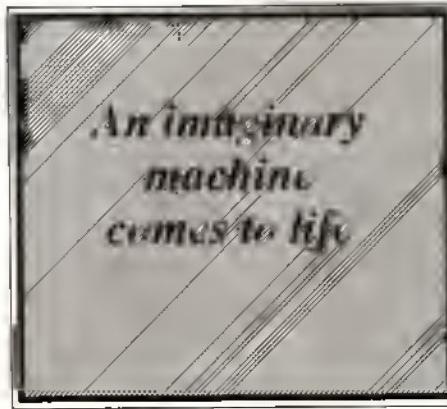
The Assembly Line

Part VI: The Turing Bus

by William P. Nee

All aboard the Turing bus! This bus is named for Alan M. Turing, a British mathematician believed by many to be the founder of modern computer principles. Alan Turing imagined a machine that could read a strip of paper containing zeros and ones and react to that information — much as present-day computers operate using binary numbers. As his imagined machine read each number, it might change that number, change to another "state," and move left or right according to the current state instructions. A typical state instruction might read "If you are reading a 0, change it to a 1, change to State 2 and move left; if you are reading a 1, change to State 3 and move to the right." The instructions for State 3 might be as simple as *stop*. This simple set of instructions is the forerunner of what we now call ROM routines.

Turing believed that any mathematical operation — addition, multiplication, etc. — could be carried out using this concept with sufficient instructions. A simple program to add two numbers and stop can be



written using three sets of instructions. Now let's transfer this idea to the CoCo, using color to represent the different states or values.

Moving in the Right Direction

Instead of moving just left and right — not a very interesting display — we'll move in relation to the previous direction. If you move one square to the right, then move right again, you'll have moved one square to the south. Four moves to the right take you back to the original location. We'll define north as Direction 0, right as Direction 1, south as Direction 2, and left as Direction 3. Now you can add the new direction value to the old direction value to determine which way to move.

Going to the right is Direction 1; turning right again is 1+1 or Direction 2, which is actually moving south. Going left and then

turning south is 3+2 or Direction 5. There is no Direction 5, since we only have directions 0 through 3. Therefore, AND the result with 3 to keep it within this range. Now (3+2)AND3 is Direction 1 or right.

Moving means to increase or decrease the current *x* and *y* locations by one, according to the direction. The general rules are:

	New x	New y
North	$x=x$	$y=y-1$
Right	$x=x+1$	$y=y$
South	$x=x$	$y=y+1$
Left	$x=x-1$	$y=y$

You may also decide to move diagonally. Each new location would then be plus or minus one, depending on the direction. I find it easy to put the direction changes in data format and read each change as *dx(0)*, *dy(0)*, *dx(1)*, *dy(1)*, etc. This way if I want to move in Direction 3, I can add *dx(3)* and *dy(3)* to *x* and *y*. The DATA statement for the general rules is:

```
DATA 0,-1,+1,0,0,+1,-1,0
```

For diagonal moves the data is:

```
DATA +1,+1,+1,-1,-1,-1,+1
```

Now for an example. Listing 1 is a BASIC program for a two-state Turing bus. Its rules are as follows:

State 1: If you read a 0, change it to 1, stay

Bill Nee bucked the snowbird trend by retiring to Wisconsin from a banking career in Florida. The success of his 13-part series, "Machine Language Made BASIC" (July 1988 to July 1989), prompted him to continue writing articles on Color Computer machine-language programming.

in State 1 and move left; if you read a 1, change it to 0, change to State 2 and move north.

State 2: If you read a 0, change it to 1, change to State 1 and move right; if you read a 1, don't change the value but change to State 1 and move right.

States or values are read with the PPOINT command. Since a point set in PMODE 4 has a value of 5 (by virtue of its color), I change all 1s to 5s in the two-state rules. Directions are read from the DATA statements, and the center of the screen is the first point checked. When you run the program you'll see that it slowly spirals around itself as it gets bigger. Any coordinate that would be off the screen is wrapped to the opposite side of the screen.

The program starts with State 0, but that can be changed in Line 20; you can PSET or PRESET the starting point before you get its value. What effect does that have? Using the data in Line 180 forces diagonal moves

instead of north, south, right and left. Try experimenting with the rules and see which ones create patterns that will keep going. For example, change the 0+0 in Line 70 to 0+1. Most changes produce either very simple patterns or ones that don't appear to go anywhere. Evidently our bus driver is very sensitive to the rules of the road.

A Bus of a Different Color

Now let's try a program in color using machine language (Listing 3). Since it's quicker to look up a value than to use the PPOINT command, we'll use an array t28-by-t92 bytes in size. Even though the program starts low in memory, there isn't that much storage room available. Therefore we'll go as far as we can in low RAM, then switch to high RAM. I only need to clear the high RAM location once, though, in Line t90. From then on, anything over \$7FFF automatically goes to high RAM.

Lines 200 through 240 set everything in the array to 0. Lines 250 through 260 establish the initial direction as 0, but you can

change this in the BASIC driver (Listing 2) for the program. Likewise lines 280 through 290 set the starting coordinates that can also be changed. The LOOP routine determines the value for those coordinates and changes direction accordingly. The rule for this trip says *if the value is less than two, increase the direction by one. Otherwise decrease the direction by one. Always increase the value by one.*

The PSET routine keeps the color within the 0 to 3 range and sets the corresponding coordinates. The WRAP routine computes the new coordinates, depending on the value of TYPE, and wraps them around the screen if necessary. Then the whole routine branches back to LOOP to get a new location and value. Apparently our bus driver will never run out of gas. The only way to stop the program is to push the Reset button; this will also automatically take you out of high RAM. After entering the assembly-language program, check it for errors with A/NO/NS/WE; then save the assembly source code by entering W TURING.ASM and assemble it.



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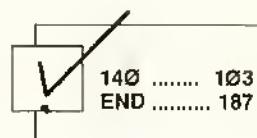
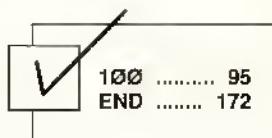
The BASIC driver allows you several options. You can:

- change the initial direction (Line 40).
- start anywhere (Line 50).
- pick normal or diagonal movement (Line 80 or Line 130).
- allow for more than three states (Line 70).
- compare to values other than 2 (Line 60).

The values in Line 70 must be powers of 2 minus 1 (3, 7, 15, etc.); the comparison number in Line 60 can be any value up to this number. Since the value could be greater than the number of colors, that extra ANDB #3 in the machine-language program keeps the color range within 0 to 3. Save the BASIC program as TURING2.BAS.

As a graphics bonus, Listing 4 is another machine-language program that drives four buses, each going in its own direction. Assemble it with A 4CTURING.BIN. It can also be run from Listing 2 by changing LOADM "TURING" in Line 30 to LOADM "4CTURING" instead. I've included a chart with some interesting settings using the 4CTURING program. Next month we'll see what's cooking with "Julia's Child" or "Mount Mandelbrot Revisited." Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions for articles, let me know — they're a big help. □

64K Disk



Listing 1: TURING1

```

0 'COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC.
10 FOR N=0 TO 3:READ DX(N),DY(N)
:NEXT
20 ST=0:X=128:Y=96
30 PMODE4,1:PCLS:SCREEN1,1
40 C=POINT(X,Y)
50 IF C=0 AND ST=0 THEN C=5:D=(D
+3)AND 3:ST=0:GOTO 90
60 IF C=0 AND ST=1 THEN C=5:D=(D
+1)AND 3:ST=0:GOTO 90
70 IF C=5 AND ST=0 THEN C=0:D=(D
+0)AND 3:ST=1:GOTO 90
80 IF C=5 AND ST=1 THEN C=5:D=(D
+1)AND 3:ST=0
90 PSET(X,Y,C)
100 X=X+DX(D)
110 IF X>255 THEN X=0
120 IF X<0 THEN X=255
130 Y=Y+DY(D)
140 IF Y>191 THEN Y=0
150 IF Y<0 THEN Y=191
160 GOTO 40
170 DATA 0,1,1,0,0,-1,-1,0
180 DATA 1,1,1,-1,-1,-1,-1,1

```

Listing 2: TURING2

```

0 'COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC.
10 CLEAR200,&H3000,1
20 TY=&H3003:DI=&H301F:LO=&H3028
30 IF PEEK(&H3008)<>26 THEN LOAD
M"TURING":POKE&HFF40,0
40 POKE DI,0
50 POKE LO,51:POKE LO+1,96
60 POKE &H3040,2
70 POKE &H3050,3
80 POKE TY+0,0:POKE TY+1,255
90 POKE TY+2,1:POKE TY+3,0
100 POKE TY+4,0:POKE TY+5,1
110 POKE TY+6,255:POKE TY+7,0
120 GOTO 170
130 POKE TY+0,1:POKE TY+1,1
140 POKE TY+2,1:POKE TY+3,255
150 POKE TY+4,255:POKE TY+5,255
160 POKE TY+6,255:POKE TY+7,1
170 PMODE3,1:PCLS:SCREEN1,1
180 'PMODE4,1:COLOR0,5:PCLS:SCRE
EN1,1
190 EXEC &H3008

```

Listing 3: TURING

00100	ORG	\$3000
00110	ACROSS	RMB 1
00120	DOWN	RMB 1
00130	DIR	RMB 1
00140	TYPE	FDB \$0001
00150		FDB \$0100
00160		FDB \$00FF
00170		FDB \$FF00
00180	START	DRC C #\$50
00190	CLR	\$FFDF
00200	LDU	#ARRAY
00210	LDD	#0
00220	ALOOP	STD ,U++
00230	CMPU	#ARRAY+128*192
00240	BLO	ALOOP
00250	LDB	#0
00260	STB	D1R
00270	LDY	#TYPE
00280	LDD	#\$3360
00290	STD	ACROSS
00300		
00310	LOOP	LDA #128
00320		MUL
00330		ADDB ACROSS
00340		ADCA #0
00350		LDU #ARRAY
00360		LEAU D,U
00370		LDB ,U
00380		LDA D1R
00390		CMPB #2
00400		BHS OTHER
00410		
00420		INCA

00430	ANDA	#3
00440	BRA	CONT
00450		
00460	OTHER	DECA
00470	ANDA	#3
00480		
00490	CONT	STA DIR
00500	PSET	1NCB
00510		ANDB #3
00520		STB ,U
00530		ANDB #3
00540	LDA	\$55
00550		MUL
00560	STB	\$85
00570	LDA	DOWN
00580	LDB	\$89
00590		MUL
00600	ADDA	\$BA
00610	TFR	D,X
00620	LDB	ACROSS
00630	LSRB	
00640	LSRB	
00650		ABX
00660	LDA	ACROSS
00670	ANDA	#3
00680	LDU	#TABLE
00690	LDA	A,U
00700	TFR	A,B
00710	COMA	
00720	ANDA	.X
00730	ANDB	\$85
00740	PSHS	B
00750	ORA	.S+
00760	STA	.X
00770		

00780	WRAP	LDB	DIR
00790		LSLB	
00800	LDD	B,Y	
00810	ADDA	ACROSS	
00820	ANDA	#\$7F	
00830	ADDB	DOWN	
00840	CMPB	#192	
00850	BNE	DOWN1	
00860	CLRB		
00870	BRA	DOWN2	
00880	DOWN1	CMPB	#\$FF
00890	BNE	DOWN2	
00900	LDB	#191	
00910	DOWN2	STD	ACROSS
00920	LBRA	LOOP	
00930			
00940	TABLE	FDB	\$C030
00950		FDB	\$0C03
00960			
00970	ARRAY	RMB	1
00980	END		START

Listing 4: 4CTURING

00100	ORG	\$3000
00110	ACROSS	RMB 1
00120	DOWN	RMB 1
00130	DIR	RMB 1
00140	TYPE	FDB \$0001
00150		FDB \$0100
00160		FDB \$00FF
00170		FDB \$FF00

00180	START	ORCC	#\$50	00530	STB	,U	00880	LDU	#TABLE
00190		CLR	\$FFDF	00540	ANDB	#3	00890	LDA	A,U
00200		LDU	#ARRAY	00550	LDA	#\$55	00900	TFR	A,B
00210		LDL	#0	00560	MUL		00910	CDMA	
00220	ALDOP	STD	,U++	00570	STB	\$B5	00920	ANDA	,X
00230		CMPU	#ARRAY+128*192	00580	LDL	ACROS1	00930	ANDB	\$B5
00240		BLO	ALDOP	00590	BSR	PSET1	00940	PSHS	B
00250		LDB	#0	00600			00950	ORA	,S+
00260		STB	DIR	00610	LDA	#127	00960	STA	,X
00270				00620	SUBA	ACROS1	00970	RTS	
00280		LDY	#TYPE	00630	LDB	DDWN1	00980		
00290		LDD	#\$2A40	00640	BSR	PSET1	00990	WRAP	LDB DIR
00300		STD	ACRDS1	00650			01000	LSLB	
00310				00660	LDA	#127	01010	LDD	B,Y
00320	LDDP	LDA	#128	00670	SUBA	ACROS1	01020	ADDA	ACROS1
00330		MUL		00680	LDB	#191	01030	ANDA	#\$7F
00340		ADD8	ACRDS1	00690	SUBB	DDWN1	01040	ADDB	DOWN1
00350		AOCA	#0	00700	BSR	PSET1	01050	CMPB	#192
00360		LDU	#ARRAY	00710			01060	BNE	CD1
00370		LEAU	D,U	00720	LDA	ACRDS1	01070	CLRB	
00380		LDB	,U	00730	LDB	#191	01080	BRA	CD1A
00390		LDA	D1R	00740	SUBB	DOWN1	01090	CD1	CMPB #\$FF
00400		CMPB	#2	00750	BSR	PSET1	01100	BNE	CD1A
00410		BHS	DTHER	00760	BRA	WRAP	01110	LDB	#191
00420				00770	PSET1		01120	CDIA	STD ACRDS1
00430		INCA		00780	LDA	#32	01130	LBRA	LDOP
00440		ANDA	#3	00790	MUL		01140		
00450		BRA	CDNT	00800	ADDA	\$BA	01150	ACROS1	RMB 1
00460				00810	TFR	D,X	01160	DOWN1	RMB 1
00470	DTHER	DECA		00820	LDB	ACRDS5	01170		
00480		ANDA	#3	00830	LSRB		01180	TABLE	FDB \$C030
00490				00840	LSRB		01190	FDB	\$C03
00500	CDNT	STA	D1R	00850	ABX		01200		
00510	PSET	INC8		00860	LDA	ACROSS	01210	ARRAY	RMB 1
00520		ANDB	#3	00870	ANDA	#3	01220	END	START

Hyper-Tech Software

MVCanvas 2.0

Finally a professional full screen editor for OS-9 Level II and Multi-Vue. MVCanvas is the only CoCo graphics editor to support multiple resolutions with up to 16 colors of 64 displayed in 320 x 200 mode with palette animation and full functional clipboard.

MVCanvas also supports multiple fonts with inverse, bold underline, and proportional options. Printer support includes: Epson, Star, C.Itoh, DMP (Tandy), with color printer supported for Star NX-1000 R, Citizen GSX-140, Tandy DMP-240 and CGP-200, Epson LQ-2550 and compatables.

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ShellMate is the epitome of what a point and click file management system was meant to be. With ShellMate, you have access to commands such as copy, move, delete, rename, mkdir and free at the touch of a button. It also gives you point and click access to the Public Domain picture display utilities VEFShow and GIFOS9, as well as the archive utility Ar.

The biggest benefit of ShellMate is that it allows you to manipulate large batches of files with one mouse click when either copying, moving, deleting or arching. You can also easily move through simultaneously displayed Source and Destination directory trees by either double clicking on a subdirectory name, or clicking on the "Parent" command.

System Requirements (both programs)

CoCo3, OS-9 LVL II, Multi-Vue, Disk Drive and 512k
 MVCanvas \$49.95
 ShellMate \$24.95
 \$3.00 S/H \$2.50 C.O.D. (U.S. only) Nev. res. add 6% sales tax

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Novices Niche

Graphics 16K Extended

Adding Machine

by Ernie Thompson

Adding Machine is designed to operate like a tape-printing adding machine. It sends running totals to both the printer and screen. In the interest of dispelling clutter, the screen display of both number and running total is only momentary. This could have been a free-standing one-liner, but I thought the program might be handy if it printed headings for various types of additions. So in the beginning you are prompted for a title to your addition. After you have entered the number of the desired heading, the printer draws a heavy checkered line under the latest total, the print head advances two spaces, the title is printed, a line is drawn under it, the header advances two more spaces vertically, and you are prompted on the screen for a number so the printing can begin.

When you have entered all the addends for your calculation, you get a final total on paper. To begin anew, press BREAK, type and enter RUN, and enter a heading number. The option is always open to use Line 100 as a free-standing one-liner by simply eliminating the other program lines.

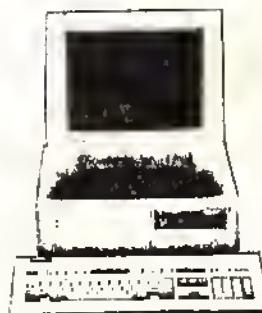
To subtract a number, type a minus sign (-) before the number to be entered. For different headings than those shown, the new title needs to be substituted in two places in the program: once in the menu line and again in a line where the headline is printed. With ordinary care this is easy to do. The new program version then needs to be saved (preferably under another name in case the original version is required for reference purposes).

The Listing: A00

```
0' COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC
10 'ADDING MACHINE
20 CLS:PRINT"CHOOSE YOUR HEADING"
" .
30 PRINT"NO.1 TOTAL EARNINGS"
40 PRINT"NO.2 TOTAL INTEREST"
50 PRINT"NO.3 TOTAL INCOME"
60 PRINT"NO.4 TOTAL DEDUCTIONS"
70 PRINT"NO.5 TAXABLE INCOME"
80 PRINT"NO.6 CHECKS OUTSTANDING":1
INPUT R
90 ON R GOTO 110,130,150,170,190
,210
100 CLS:INPUT"NUMBER":N:PRINT#-2
,"$";N"---ADD ON":N1-N:N2-N2+N:
PRINT@78,"$";N2"**TOTAL**":PRINT#
-2,"$";N2"--->**TOTAL**":FORX-1TO
300:NEXTX:GOTO100
110 PRINT#-2,STRING$(20,229):PRI
NT#-2,""
120 PRINT#-2,"TOTAL EARNINGS":PR
INT#-2,STRING$(14,241):PRINT#-2,
"":GOTO100
130 PRINT#-2,STRING$(20,229):PRI
NT#-2,""
140 CLS:PRINT#-2,"TOTAL INTEREST"
:PRINT#-2,STRING$(14,241):PRINT#
-2,"":GOTO100
150 PRINT#-2,STRING$(20,229):PRI
NT#-2,""
160 PRINT#-2,"TOTAL INCOME":PRIN
T#-2,STRING$(14,241):PRINT#-2,""
:GOTO100
170 PRINT#-2,STRING$(20,229):PRI
NT#-2,""
180 CLS:PRINT#-2,"TOTAL DEDUCTIO
NS":PRINT#-2,STRING$(14,241):PRI
NT#-2,"":GOTO100
190 PRINT#-2,STRING$(20,229):PRI
NT#-2,""
200 PRINT#-2,"TAXABLE INCOME":PR
INT#-2,STRING$(14,241):PRINT#-2,
"":GOTO100
210 PRINT#-2,STRING$(20,229):PRI
NT#-2,""
220 PRINT#-2,"CHECKS OUTSTANDING"
:PRINT#-2,STRING$(14,241):PRINT#
-2,"":GOTO 100
```

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CoCos and Laser Jets

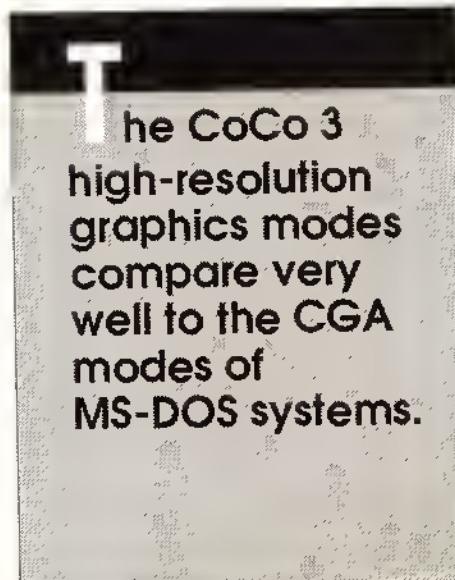
by William Barden, Jr.
Contributing Editor

When I want to plot something on the CoCo, whether it's for designing a type face, logo, or simple figure, I run into trouble. The "worksheets" in the back of the Color Computer Extended BASIC manual just don't cut it. They pack a 320-by-192 matrix into a small page, which makes it nearly impossible to count pixels from the worksheets. Also, there's no 640-by-192 worksheet for the CoCo 3 high-resolution graphics mode. Going to graph paper doesn't help, either. The best paper I could find without going to a specialized graphics-art store was 10 squares-per-inch. To represent the entire CoCo 3 screen in high-resolution mode would require a pieced together worksheet of 64 inches by 19 inches. Another problem with the graph paper is the proportion of the cells represented. The pixels found in almost all graphics modes are not square, but rectangular. These pixels require a precise worksheet to ensure proper proportions on the screen. A partial answer to CoCo graphics worksheets is in this column, if you are willing to suffer through some explanations of graphics and laser printer technology.

CoCo 3 Hi-Res Graphics Modes

I love my CoCo 3. The high-resolution graphics modes compare very well to the CGA modes of MS-DOS systems. There are also more colors than in typical MS-DOS systems, except the Tandy 1000s. There are

two high-resolution densities, 320-by-192 and 640-by-192. The first number represents the number of pixels across the screen, either 320 or 640. The second figure repre-



sents the number of pixels from top to bottom on the screen.

The *aspect ratio* of a screen is the proportion of the width to height. A television picture has an aspect ratio of 4:3. That is,

four units wide by three units high, or 1.333. This television aspect ratio has been established as a standard that is both pleasing to the eye and easy to implement, but it isn't God-given. The new high definition television aspect ratio that everyone's talking about is wider and more like a movie screen. A typical CM-8 color monitor high-resolution screen measures 9.7 inches wide by 6.3 inches high with an aspect ratio of about 1.54, within working range of the 1.333 aspect ratio.

A "perfect" computer graphics screen would show square pixels of 640 across by 480 vertically and preserve the 4:3 aspect ratio of most televisions or monitors ($640/480=4/3$). Square pixels would make life easier for computer graphics worksheets. Some 10-squares-per-inch graph paper from your local drug store is all that would be needed. (MS-DOS VGA graphics does indeed use this ratio.) The CoCo 3 640-by-192 screen is not hard to fit into the magic 4:3 ratio. Simply multiply 192 by 2.5. You get exactly 480. This means that a CoCo 3 640-by-192 Hi-Res pixel is exactly one unit wide by 2.5 units high, as shown in Figure 1.

Since the 320-by-192 high-resolution pixel is twice the width, the proportions become 2:2.5, or one unit wide by 1.125 units high, as shown in the same figure.

Bill Barden has written 35 books and hundreds of magazine articles about small computers. His newest Color Computer project, Connecting the CoCo to the Real World, is a book of CoCo interfacing projects. He has over 20 years experience in the industry on systems ranging from mainframes to micros.

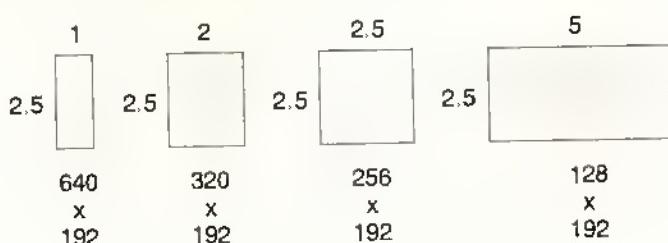


Figure 1: Aspect Ratios

New CoCo Calligrapher V2 for CoCo III!

The popular RS-DOS version of the Calligrapher has been upgraded for the CoCo III! This new version has some of the advanced features that were only available in the OS9 Calligrapher. \$24.95 (upgrade your old V1 version for \$12.50).

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Sample Calligrapher CliPix Pictures



The Font Massager - This OS9/MS-DOS utility program allows you to do many things to Calligrapher font files. You may create new fonts, modify existing fonts, invert fonts, compress fonts, double the height and/or width, halve the height and/or width and convert between RS-DOS and OS9/MS-DOS formats. (Note: OS9 and MS-DOS font files are identical and need no conversion. Simply copy or upload the files from one OS to the other). OS9 or MS DOS; \$19.95.

Calligrapher CliPix - The Calligrapher may now include graphics pictures along with the text it prints. There are currently 9 different CliPix disks available, each one has over 60 different graphic pictures. While the OS9/MS DOS Calligrapher may easily combine both text and CliPix, the RS-DOS (CoCo) Calligrapher may also print out the CliPix. \$9.95 each.

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- CliPlx #2 - Astrology/Mythology
- CliPlx #3 - Jobs (Occupations)
- CliPlx #4 - KidStuff
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All programs run on the CoCo 1, 2 and 3, S2K Extended Basic, unless otherwise noted. Add \$1.50 per tape or disk for shipping and handling. Florida residents add 6% sales tax. COD orders add \$5. Dealer inquiries invited. Orders generally shipped in 24-48 hours. No refunds or exchanges without prior authorization.

Low-Resolution Graphics Modes

The most popular low-resolution graphics modes are the ones with 128-by-192 pixels and 256-by-192 pixels. These are not HSCREEN modes and the screen proportions change slightly. On my CM-8 color monitor, the actual physical screen dimensions are 7.7 inches wide by 6.2 inches high, which is an aspect ratio of 1.24. Again, this is within the working range of the magic 1.333 television ratio. An interesting fact about the 256-by-192 screen is that 256:192 is exactly 4:3 — the pixels in this mode are exactly square, with a width of one unit and a height of one unit, as shown in Figure 1.

Pixels in the 128-by-192 mode are two units wide by one unit high, since the width is stretched out to twice the distance.

A Useful Worksheet

It seems to me that graphics worksheets that try to represent the entire screen are not really usable. They either cram all the pixels together or they are huge. A better approach might be to show a reasonable portion of the screen, since you are usually working with a graphics character or figure that uses only a small fraction of the total screen area. I came up with a compromise. Plot a graphics worksheet of 160 pixels horizontally by 48 pixels vertically. This represents one-fourth of the screen distance horizontally or vertically, which is not an unreasonable area to work with (see Figure 2). Several sheets can still be taped together to show larger portions of the screen if necessary.

I can never figure out which pixel a label such as t84 refers to on worksheets in the Extended BASIC manual. There seem to be three in the immediate area, and it's easy to get confused when counting. I opted to add a heavier line every 10 pixels. It is easier to count in groups of 10 and then by units to locate individual pixels. Samples of the 640-by-192 and 320-by-192 worksheets are shown in Figure 3. The 256-by-192 and 128-by-192 worksheets are not shown.

Printing the Worksheets

The big problem for the worksheets is how to print the darn things. Many of you probably have dot-matrix printers like mine that are capable of printing Hi-Res graphics worksheets. There always seem to be problems with these printers. Although you can print Hi-Res graphics, you usually can't get a fine enough resolution for exact proportions. This has been my experience on a variety of Tandy and other dot-matrix printers. The solution is to print the worksheets on a laser printer. The laser printer has the capacity to generate very precise forms.

Let me tell you a little bit about laser printers.

Laser Printer Basics

In addition to several dot-matrix printers, I also have a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Series II printer that I use with my CoCos and MS-DOS systems. One interesting thing about the LaserJet is that it has both serial and parallel ports, which makes it easy to switch between the serial output of the CoCo and the parallel output of my other systems. There are a host of HP LaserJet series-compatible laser printers. For example, the Tandy LP-1000 is LaserJet Plus-compatible, which means that programs set up for the LaserJet Plus series also work on the Tandy LP-1000. There are also some very inexpensive laser printers available which you might consider for your CoCo system. Of course, *very inexpensive* is a relative term. The cost of some of the new and powerful laser printers is in the \$900 range, which probably exceeds the complete investment in your CoCo system. Nevertheless, a LaserJet and CoCo makes for a very powerful desktop publishing system.

Laser printers operate by using a laser diode beam with usually a Canon or Ricoh photocopier mechanism. The beam can be precisely controlled and the resolution of the printing is 300 dots-per-inch, about four times as good as the best high-resolution dot-matrix printers. Individual dots are very crisp and clean, unlike those in dot-matrix printing, which tend to smudge.

Laser Printing Commands

Laser printers are controlled by a built-in language called PCL, or Printer Control Language. This is a special language developed by Hewlett-Packard for their printers. PCL is very similar in complexity and functions to the print commands found in Radio Shack printers, but the commands are not the same. Most of the things that can be done with PCL are very primitive. It can position a print head cursor somewhere on the page, change the line feed spacing, change the character spacing, select a new font, change the printing margins, and so forth.

Like Tandy printer commands, laser printer commands in PCL are sent as a string

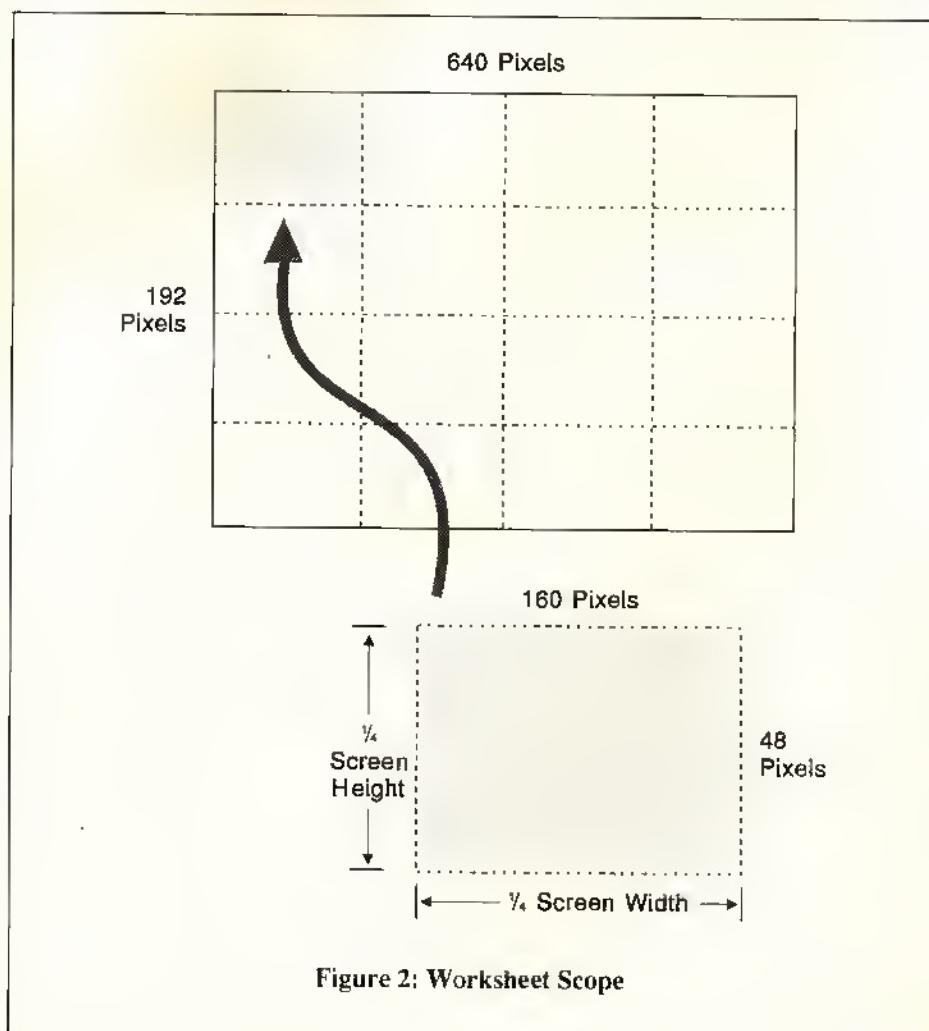


Figure 2: Worksheet Scope

320-by-192 Mode

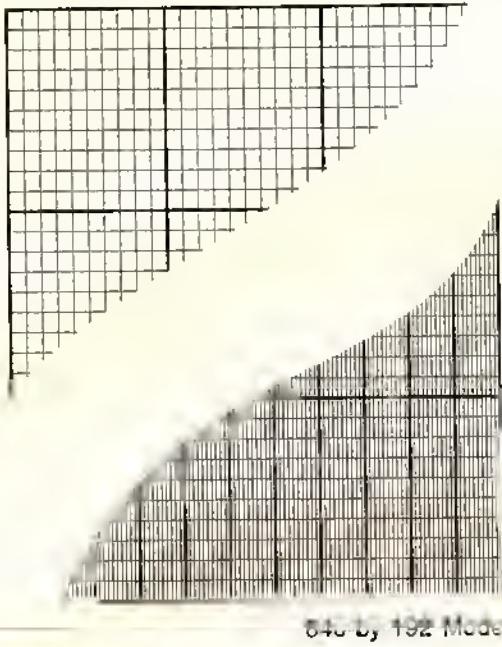


Figure 3: Sample Worksheet Sections

of characters, the first character of which is an escape code (decimal 27). The characters that follow this code define the action to be taken. The necessary command formats needed to print a worksheet are shown in Figure 4.

These commands are preceded by an escape character. For example, to change the left margin, you would send CHR\$(27)+"&a13L" from BASIC. Bear in mind that a laser printer page is like a graphics screen. You can repaint areas of it in any sequence, not just printing from left to right and from top to bottom. This fact

makes it very easy to create complex graphics. The rectangle commands require some explanation. The Define Rectangle Width command defines a rectangle of a certain number of dots in width. The Define Rectangle Height command defines the rectangle's height in dots. The Print Rectangle Area command actually prints the rectangle starting at the current print head position. Although you can use different patterns in the rectangle, the default is a solid fill — all black. Both horizontal and vertical lines are created by defining rectangles of different size and printing them. A horizontal line is

&F0\$C	save the current print position on the page
&F1\$	restore the current print position on the page
*p400X	position the print head 400 dots (400/300 inches) over from the left margin
*p2100Y	position the print head 2100 dots (2100/300 inches) down from the top margin
E	print the current page and eject
&110	set landscape mode (print on the page width)
9	reset the margins
&a13L	set left margin to the 13th column position
*c2400A	define a rectangle width of 2400 dots (2400/300 inches)
*c3B	define a rectangle height of 3 dots (3/300 inches)
*c0P	print a rectangular area at the current print-head position
*p+38Y	move the print head down 38 dots (38/300 inches)
*p+15X	move the print head over 15 dots (15/300 inches)

Figure 4: LaserJet Commands for Worksheets

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	250	215
	330	96
	470	17
	END	175

Listing 1: CCGRAPH

```

100 ' CoCo 640 by 192 Graphic La
yout Plotter for LaserJet
130 GOSUB 330
140 GOSUB 360
150 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"&f0$";
160 FOR I=1 TO 5
170 GOSUB 440:GOSUB 560
180 GOSUB 400
190 FOR J=1 TO 9:GOSUB 560:NEXT
J
200 NEXT I
210 GOSUB 440:GOSUB 560
220 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"&f1$";
230 FOR I=1 TO 16
240 GOSUB 520:GOSUB 600

```

really a very wide rectangle with little height. A vertical line is a very tall rectangle with little width.

A Worksheet-Printing Program

The above information is presented so that you can print the worksheets yourself. If you are lucky enough to own a laser printer with your CoCo, use the program in Listing 1. Otherwise, you will need access to an MS-DOS system with a laser printer. Almost any MS-DOS system and laser printer will do — the program is uncomplicated and without any special tricks. A Tandy LPT-1000 laser printer setup at your local Tandy Computer Center is one possible source. (Or you can send for a free copy of the worksheets by writing to me at the address given at the end of this column.)

If you can run simple programs in BASIC on the CoCo, you can run the program on an MS-DOS system. At the C> prompt, enter GWBASIC. You should see BASIC load and display the title message. Enter the program exactly as shown, with the desired line substitutions as indicated for the different worksheets. Entering the program is the same as in CoCo BASIC. Re-entering a line number erases the old line and substitutes the new line in its place. LIST lists the current program. SAVE and LOAD work the same as in CoCo BASIC.

After the program has been entered, double check the code and enter RUN. In a few seconds, the laser printer should spew out the worksheet master.

```

250 GOSUB 480
260 FOR J=1 TO 9:GOSUB 600:NEXT
J
270 NEXT I
280 GOSUB 520:GOSUB 600
290 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*p400X"+C
HRS(27)+"*p2100Y";
299 REM If your LaserJet has Aut
o CR/LF, remove ;CHR$(10) from l
ine 300
300 PRINT#-2,"Color Computer 3 6
40 by 192 Mode - Grid of 160 Hor
izontal by 50 Vertical Pixels";C
HRS(10)
310 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"E";
320 STOP
330 ' set landscape
340 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"&110";
350 RETURN
360 ' set margins
370 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"9";
380 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"&a13L";
390 RETURN
400 ' define light horizontal li
ne
410 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c2400A";
420 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c1B";
430 RETURN
440 ' define heavy horizontal li
ne
450 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c2400A";
460 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c3B";
470 RETURN
480 ' define light vertical line
490 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c1A";
500 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c1900B";
510 RETURN
520 ' define heavy vertical line
530 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c2A";
540 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c1900B";
550 RETURN
560 ' print horizontal line at c
urrent x,y and increment
570 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c0P";
580 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*p+38Y";
590 RETURN
600 ' print vertical line at cur
rent x,y and increment
610 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*c1L";
620 PRINT#-2,CHR$(27)+"*p+15X";
630 RETURN

```

If You Can't Find a Laser Printer...

It may not be easy to find a laser printer setup. If you would like master copies of the four worksheets, I'd be happy to oblige. Send a self-addressed, stamped 9-by-12 envelope. You may want to include a protective cardboard insert. I'll send you the masters immediately. There are things that slow the delivery process — for example, sending an enclosed note with a 200-page listing asking me to troubleshoot the pro-

gram, or a money order for the postage without an envelope and instructions on how to air mail the package to Zimbabwe. Send the SASE to:

William Barden, Jr.
P.O. Box 3568
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

See you next month with more CoCo topics. □

Editor's Note:- This listing requires a PC-compatible running MS-DOS and GWBASIC.

Listing 2: MSGRAPH

```

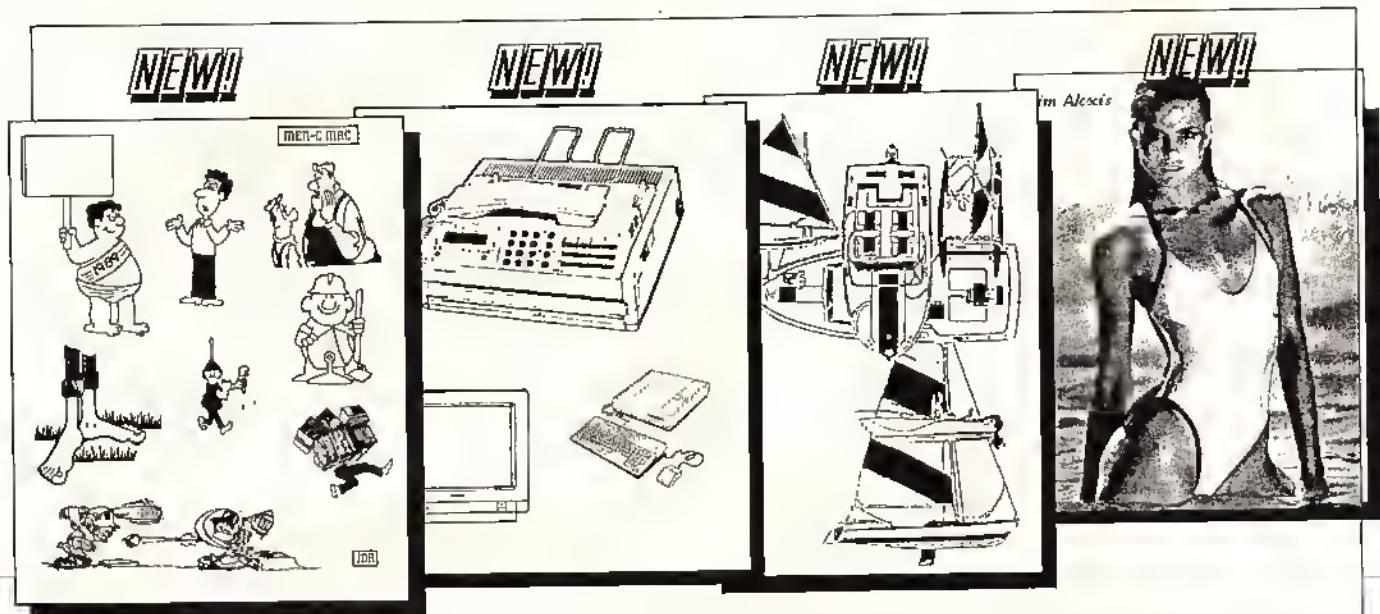
100 ' CoCo 640 by 192 Graphic Layout Plotter for LaserJet
110 WIDTH "LPT1:",255
120 OPEN "LPT1:" FOR OUTPUT AS #1
130 GOSUB 330
140 GOSUB 360
150 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"&f0$";
160 FOR I=1 TO 5
170 GOSUB 440:GOSUB 560
180 GOSUB 400
190 FOR J=1 TO 9:GOSUB 560:NEXT J
200 NEXT I
210 GOSUB 440:GOSUB 560
220 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"&f1$";
230 FOR I=1 TO 16
240 GOSUB 520:GOSUB 600
250 GOSUB 480
260 FOR J=1 TO 9:GOSUB 600:NEXT J
270 NEXT I
280 GOSUB 520:GOSUB 600
290 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*p400X"+CHR$(27)+"*p2100Y";

```

```

300 PRINT#1,"Color Computer 3 640 by 192 Mode - Grid of 160 Horizontal by 50 Vertical Pixels"
310 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"E";
320 STOP
330 ' set landscape
340 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"&110";
350 RETURN
360 ' set margins
370 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"9";
380 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"&a13L";
390 RETURN
400 ' define light horizontal line
410 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c2400A";
420 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c1B";
430 RETURN
440 ' define heavy horizontal line
450 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c2400A";
460 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c3B";
470 RETURN
480 ' define light vertical line
490 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c1A";
500 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c1900B";
510 RETURN
520 ' define heavy vertical line
530 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c2A";
540 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c1900B";
550 RETURN
560 ' print horizontal line at current x,y and increment
570 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c0P";
580 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*p+38Y";
590 RETURN
600 ' print vertical line at current x,y and increment
610 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*c0P";
620 PRINT#1,CHR$(27)+"*p+15X";
630 RETURN

```



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Going Online: Primed and Ready

by Tony Olive

RAINBOW's Reviews/Submissions Editor

Mong my duties at THE RAINBOW is the posting of information for a department called "The Intercom." If you read this section, and I hope you do, you know it contains names, addresses and phone numbers for Pens Pals, CoCo Clubs and BBSs. As I compiled these reports recently I was struck by the irony of my assignment. I am responsible for encouraging readers to patronize the avenues listed while I had never done so myself. I had never even used a modem.

My lack of understanding of online services plagued me for a few months. I was reeling with curiosity and questions about how to remove this self-imposed, dispassionate involvement with my work. There was only one solution to the challenge. I needed a modem.

I searched the office for a spare modem and soon realized this was not a piece of hardware allowed to sit and gather dust on a shelf. After a week or two I got rather impatient — impatient to use something that was completely foreign to me. The answers to my questions just couldn't wait. But I had dubious expectations about obtaining this mysterious device.

And then, there it was. The tiny Delta DM-1200 modem — small enough to fit in the palm of my hand yet powerful enough to allow me access to the world of online communications. I was eager to explore the limitless boundaries of an unknown territory. Filled with a new sense of quest, I gathered phone numbers for the available local services. My anticipation grew as I dialed Freeboard-Electronic Bulletin, a BBS run by the Louisville Free Public Library.

I discovered not a directory of books,

but instead a database with a hodgepodge of topics intersecting a broad selection of interests. I must admit that most of my time was spent learning to maneuver in this new environment. The system was not immediately understood by this neophyte. Despite the inconvenience, I still thought this was a positive experience. I then called HUG BBS of Paducah, KY. It was easier to move around in this system. I splashed around HUG BBS for over an hour. (But I hadn't downloaded a file yet.) I said to myself, "This is great! I can't believe no one ever insisted I get a modem. Look at all this information!" The phone bill wasn't so great, but the experience was well worth the expense.

Going online and connecting to a BBS was my original interest. There are, however, a variety of other options available to modem users. A similar use is to connect to one of many online utility services. My current experience in this arena is limited to Delphi.

The difference between a BBS and an online utility service is startling. It is overwhelming to go from being the only person, or one of a few, connected to a BBS to an electronic room where thousands are gathered. The possibilities sank deeper. A whole new world opened at my fingertips. Again, I thought to myself, "Where have I been?"

On Delphi I found the extensive databases I had been hoping for, and conferences for computer-specific groups (they call these SIGS). For finding facts, making new friends and gathering technical information, this was pay dirt.

With all the interaction on a large network comes clutter. It's easy to spend a lot

of time and money looking for information without a well executed search technique. Before you plunge head first into an online utility service, it is wise to purchase a user manual for that particular system. On the other hand, it is important to know that you don't have to be a technical wizard to enjoy a fruitful harvest from going online.

Another online practice is *remote computing*. This means one computer is controlled via a different computer or terminal. One product for the CoCo, CLI D-Link by Coless Computer Design, allows this. Just think of the possibilities. No more racing around town to gain access to a computer.

There is a vast sea of information waiting to be tapped. There are similarities between an isolated CoCo user and a caged animal. To daily endure the repetitive pace is boring — boring enough to make the animal a creature of complacency. How can an animal possibly learn about the unfamiliar territory outside the cage without further exploration? Going online releases the animal in us. The newfound waters are invigorating.

The bottom line is this: I was scared at the thought of going online in the beginning. But my curiosity overcame my fears and the results are fantastic. Of course it wasn't easy at first, but a little experimentation and a lot of questions to other (more-experienced) users paved the way to an exciting new world. I just wish I had gotten my modem sooner.

The online cruise of the century is still taking reservations. Just purchase a modem and swim a little closer to the life preservers. There are fellow shipmates waiting with helping hands.

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Displaying Picture Files Using OS-9 Level II Graphics

Part II

by Tim Kientzle

Last month, we learned how to use OS-9 Level II's graphics capabilities to display simple uncompressed VEF and MGE format pictures. This month, we'll take a careful look at a general type of compression called *run-length encoding* (RLE) and expand the earlier programs to handle compressed MGE and VEF data.

Why We Need Compression

One thing I pointed out in last month's article was that increased graphics resolutions mean more data. Compare the old PMODE 4, 256-by-192 pictures in two colors requiring 6K of storage space to HSCREEN 2, 320-by-200 pictures in 16 colors with over 31K of data. The typical CoCo with a 35-track, single-sided disk drive can store more than 20 PMODE 4 pictures on a disk, but only five uncompressed VEF or MGE images. There must be some way to improve this.

If you look closely at graphics pictures,

Run-length decoding techniques and displaying images with OS-9 Level II

you'll notice that many have large areas that are one solid color, or filled with some simple pattern. With careful thought, you might realize these areas consist of the same byte value repeated many times. Such a repeated value is often referred to as a *run*. A common technique that replaces each run with a code telling what value to repeat, and how many times to repeat it, is called *run-length encoding*. Although there are many ways to handle this encoding, each is only slightly different from the rest.

Tim Kientzle, currently pursuing a doctorate in mathematics at the University of California at Berkeley, has worked with the CoCo since 1982. He is best known in the CoCo world as the database manager for the CoCo SIG on Delphi, and as the author of the v-term terminal emulator. He can be reached on Delphi as TIMKIENTZLE. Or you can contact him at 14 Croxton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611.

Simple RLE: The MGE Format

The most simple form of run-length encoding is to pretend the whole picture is just a sequence of runs. In other words, even if we have a value that is repeated just once, we'll think of it as a run of length one. Our decoding routine is very simple. Each run is stored as a count byte, followed by a value to repeat. In the following example, I use a series of letters, where single digits represent the run length.

Unencoded:

aaaaaaaaabbbbcddeffghhhh

Encoded:

9a4b1c3d1e1f1g4h

The unencoded version uses 23 bytes, whereas the encoded version takes only 16. If the data is filled with long runs, this method works well. Consider a solid black picture that is 320 by 200. (It isn't a very interesting picture, but a picture nonetheless.) The picture contains 32,000 bytes of graphics data using the unencoded method. With this new form of run-length encoding, it uses only 252 bytes. There are 125 codes with a count of 255 and a value of 0 and one code with a count of 125 and a value of 0—quite a savings!

This method of encoding is used by the MGE compression format. You may recall I said last month that MGE compression isn't very good. The compression of 32,000 bytes down into 252 bytes sounds pretty good.

What's the catch? The catch is that solid black pictures aren't very interesting. Consider how this compression method operates in a worst case scenario where there are no runs of more than one byte — for example, a picture with a great deal of detail or where the background is filled by a complex pattern. In this case, each byte of the original would be represented by a code with a count of one. Since there are 32,000 bytes in the original picture, this would result in a *compressed* image of 64,000 bytes! This hardly deserves the name compressed.

During the evaluation of any compression method, thought should always be given to the worst case. Any compression method lengthens some files, this is unavoidable. But good compression methods lengthen files only by a small amount. Many archiving programs, for instance, first read through the file and try to compress it. If the resultant file would be longer, these routines store the file uncompressed, which only lengthens it by the one byte needed to indicate that it is stored uncompressed. The most difficult thing to determine is how much ordinary files will be

compressed. The only way this can be determined is with practice. In theory, this very simple method will compress many graphics files, but only by a small amount. Most graphics files contain a lot of single-byte runs, and this method does not work well with such runs.

Escape Codes: RAT and TC Formats

Necessary changes to avoid having single-byte runs. An *escape code* is one such possibility. The escape code method is used by the RAT graphics format and the popular TC12, TC3, and TC3t archiving programs for Disk BASIC. The idea is to set aside one special value called an *escape value*. We use this special value to indicate an encoded run. It may be easier to start by thinking about a file that is already encoded. In this short example, the # is our escape code:

Unencoded:
abbbbbcdffffghijklmmnop
Encoded:
a#bcd#efghi#jk#3klmnopp

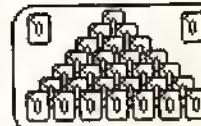
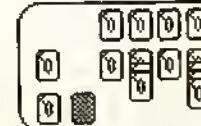
For decoding purposes, the two bytes after the # character are a count and a value. An encoded run now takes three bytes instead of two. In this method single-byte runs or two-byte runs should not be encoded since either one would be lengthened. Note that pp at the end is unencoded. Encoding is not necessarily an efficient method for use with three-byte runs. Three bytes will be used with either method. The only subtlety in this method is in handling the escape value.

We must encode the escape value, even a single-byte run, if it is to be decoded. Try encoding the following sequence:

Unencoded:

Did you remember to encode the # characters as one-byte runs? In this example the result is longer than what we start with. It might be challenging for you to figure out the worst case for this type of encoding. If you figure it out, though, you'll realize that even though the worst case is as bad as it was with simple RLE in terms of how much

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the result is lengthened, it is less likely that someone would draw a picture like this!

A variation that avoids this problem is to pick the escape value differently for each picture — examine the entire data file and select the least-occurring value as your escape value. With this method, the worst case will lengthen a 32,000 byte picture to a quite reasonable 32,251 bytes. The biggest disadvantage is that we can only save space by encoding runs of four or more. In practice, this method works reasonably well for graphics files, but not as well for text or program files. These files have very few runs of any significant length.

There is a completely different approach that also works well in practice. Use special codes to identify runs and other codes to identify anti-runs. An *anti-run* is a sequence without any repetitions. Rather than starting with an explanation, let's look at an example. Consider the following encoded sequence of numbers:

5 17 -4 89 32 66 125 3 99 4 87 -3 14 53 66

To decode this, look at it as a sequence of small groups, each containing a count and some amount of data. If the count is positive, then it is followed by one value. If the count is negative, it is followed by that number of values. There are five groups in the above example. The first group is 5 and 17. The last group contains the numbers -3 14 53 66. A group with a positive count means that the value should be repeated that number of times. A group with a negative count is copied as is. For decoding, each group is expanded as follows:

5 17 -> 17 17 17 17 17
-4 89 32 66 125 -> 89 32 66 125
3 99 -> 99 99 99
4 87 -> 87 87 87 87
-3 14 53 66 -> 14 53 66

The final, decoded sequence is:

17 17 17 17 17 89 32 66 125 99 99 99 87 87 87 87
14 53 66

Macintosh *MacPaint* pictures use almost this exact type of encoding, with one or two minor optimizations. tMG format uses this same idea, but instead of having a way to flag whether a group is a run or an anti-run, it simply alternates them. Squashed VEF uses a slight variation of this method where the high bit represents whether to repeat or copy the data, while the lower seven bits hold the actual count. Squashed VEF also makes a concession to ease programming — each half-line is compressed separately. This process makes decoding easier, since the decoding program can

work on a line-by-line basis. With many compression methods there is data left from the end of one line which must be added to the beginning of the next line.

Look at Listing 1. A picture stored in Squashed VEF format has an 18-byte header made up as follows:

1 byte — Compression flag
1 byte — Screen-type code
16 bytes — Palette values

The compression flag is zero if the picture data is stored uncompressed and 128 if the picture data is squashed. The screen-type code is the same format as normal VEF, as described last month.

In uncompressed format, the picture data is stored as 200 lines of graphics data. In squashed format, the picture data is stored as 400 packets with each encoding one-half of a screen line. The first byte of a packet indicates the number of encoded data bytes that follow. The encoding consists of a series of groups. Each group has a count byte. If the count byte has the high bit set, the count byte is followed by a single data

byte. The lower seven bits indicate how many times to repeat the data byte. If the high bit of the count byte is clear, the count byte is followed by that many bytes of data. The data is copied as is.

Traditionally, 192-line images have been stored in VEF format by adding eight blank lines to the top of the picture. When displaying VEF pictures on a 192-line screen, the top eight lines are usually not displayed. Color cycling, when used, rotates palettes 8 through 15.

Comments on the Listings

Last month I said that a goal of the program design was to make modifications easier. This month we reap the benefits of that approach. With GetLine, only one procedure needs to change in order to handle both normal and squashed VEF pictures.

Listing 1 shows the new GetLine procedure, as well as two new procedures which allow the program to complete its work. GetLine checks the compression value. If this value is non-zero, it calls GetPacket and UnSquash to decode two packets, one for each half of this line.

512K OS-9 Level II

Listing 1: GetLine.b09

```
PROCEDURE GetLine
 0000      /* Gets one line of graphics data from the file into "iline".
 003C      /* "bytes" is the length of the line expected. "compress"
 0075      /* is the compression format
 0091      BASE 0
 0093      TYPE LineType=long(160):BYTE; short(80):BYTE
 00AE
 00AF      PARAM path:BYTE
 00B6      PARAM bytes:INTEGER
 00BD      PARAM compress:INTEGER
 00C4      PARAM line:LineType
 00CD
 00CE      DIM buffer(300):BYTE
 00DA
 00DB      IF compress=0 THEN /* 0 means no compression
 0100      IF bytes>B0 THEN
 010C          GET #path,line.long
 011A      ELSE
 011E          GET #path,iline.short
 012C      ENDIF
 012E      /* compress is not zero
 0149          RUN GetPacket(path,buffer)
 0158          RUN UnSquash(buffer,iline,0,bytes)
 016F          RUN GetPacket(path,buffer)
 017E          RUN UnSquash(buffer,iline,bytes/2,bytes)
 0199      ENDIF
 019B      END

PROCEDURE UnSquash
 0000      /* UnSquash data in buffer to line starting at linepos
 0036      BASE 0
 0038      TYPE LineType=long(160):BYTE; short(80):BYTE
 0053
 0054      PARAM buffer(300):BYTE
 0060      PARAM line:LineType
 0069      PARAM linepos,bytes:INTEGER
 0074
 0075      DIM bufpos,linestop:INTEGER
 0080      DIM i,runend:INTEGER
 0088      DIM temp:BYTE
 0092      /* First, uncompress into iline.long
 0095          bufpos=1 \linestop-linepos+bytes/2 \i-ilinepos
 0098      WHILE i<linestop DO /* Keep going until we get to the stopping point
 0111          bufpos=bufpos+1
```

```

011C     runend=i+LAND(buffer(bufpos),127)-1 /* Find where this group will
end
0152     IF runend>159 THEN /* Some Squashed VEF files have problems...
0189         runend=159
0190     ENDIF
0192     IF buffer(bufpos)>127 THEN /* If high bit set,
0184         temp=buffer(bufpos+1)
01C2         bufpos=bufpos+1
01CD         FDR i=i TO runend
01DF             line.long(i)=temp /* Repeat this value.
0203             NEXT i
020E         ELSE
0212             FDR i=i TO runend /* Otherwise,
0216                 bufpos=bufpos+1
023C                 line.long(i)=buffer(bufpos) /* copy data straight.
0264                 NEXT i
026F             ENDIF
0271         ENDWHILE
0275
0276     IF bytes<160 THEN /* Is this a short line?
029A         FDR i=0 TD 79
02AA             line.short(i)=line.long(i) /* Copy data to line.short
02D9             NEXT i
02E4         ENDIF
02E6     END
02E6

PROCEDURE GetPacket
0000     /* Gets one Squashed packet from the input path
002F     BASE 0
0031     PARAM path:BYTE
0038     PARAM buffer(300):BYTE
0044
0045     DIM bufsize:BYTE
004C     DIM i:INTEGER
0053
0054     GET #path,bufsize /* Get the size of the packet
0078     FOR i=0 TO bufsize-1 /* Read that many bytes
00A6         GET #path,buffer(i)
0084     NEXT i
00B5     END

```

Listing 2: GetPacket.b09

```

PROCEDURE 'GetPacket
0000     /* Gets one Squashed packet from the input path
002F     /* Uses the l$Read system call to read the entire packet
0067     /* at once, which is much faster.
0088     BASE 0
008A     TYPE Registers=CC,A,B,DP:BYTE; X,Y,U:INTEGER
00AF     PARAM path:BYTE
00B6     PARAM buffer(300):BYTE
00C2     DIM bufsize:BYTE
00C9     DIM regs:Registers
00D2
00D3     GET #path,bufsize /* Get the packet size
00F3     regs.A=path /* A register holds the path
0118     regs.X=ADDR(buffer) /* X register holds the buffer address
014F     regs.Y=bufsize /* Y register holds the size
0177     RUN SysCall($89,regs) /* Read data into buffer
0190     END

```

UnSquash performs the actual decoding. The program is written in an unusual manner. The count byte is used to determine how long the group will be after it is decoded. The data is then copied to fill up to that point. We must be careful to make sure runend doesn't get too big, or we might go beyond the end of the line.long array. Some early programs that tried to use Squashed VEF format encoded extra junk data into each line, which should be ignored. Another strange thing about this program is that it always decodes into the line.long array, and copies it into line.short if we are using a format with only 80 bytes per line. This was done for simplicity.

GetPacket actually reads a packet from the file. It gets the size value and reads that number of bytes. Listing 2 shows another listing for GetPacket that uses a system call to read the entire packet at once instead of reading it one byte at a time. This change alone doubles the speed of the program. Try both methods for comparison.

Homework

To stay busy until next month, keep working on the MGE viewer you started writing last month. The next obvious addition is to get it to support MGE compression. Last month I gave you the format of an MGE header so you can determine whether or not a file is compressed. The compression used is the very simple run-length encoding I described at the very beginning of this article. The only catch is that you might have a single run that includes both the end of one line and the beginning of the next one. You might want to consider adding some variables in the main program that are passed to the GetLine procedure so it can store these unfinished runs.

Next month, I'll talk about two more compression formats, CM3 and GIF. I will also delve a little deeper into some of the details of OS-9 graphics.

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Novices Niche

Utility 16K Extended

Pop-Up Menus by Douglas Liming

While writing long programs, most of my time is spent making menus each time one is needed. I knew there had to be a faster way. To expedite the creative process I developed an automatic menu generator that I call *Pop-up*.

Pop-up is a subroutine that centers, allows for a heading, and takes the menu choices from a data statement. I added a bit of color to make the routine look a little more professional. The menu's operation is simple. By using the up and down arrow keys, you align the dot with your choice and press the ENTER key.

This version is a demo and only prints what the user chooses. Replacing Line 290 with a RETURN command transfers control back to the main program and the user's choice is stored in the array PIC\$. The heading can be altered by changing Line 30. The data statement I used is in Line 60, using a FOR...NEXT loop to read the data. Changing COUNT (Line 20) or using the RESTORE command will be necessary for using this routine a number of times within your program. I am sure you will find this program to be a valuable subroutine.

The Listing: POPUP

```
0 'COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC.  
10 'POP-UP MENUS.BY:DOUGLAS B. L  
IMING  
20 CLS 3 : COUNT=5 : BL=128 + 16  
* (3-1) + 15 : DIM ITEM$(12),CH  
EK$(12,15)  
30 PRINT : PRINT :PRINT @ 10,"PO  
P-UP MENU" : PRINT @ 39,"BY: OOU  
GLAS B. LIMING" : PRINT  
40 FOR H=0 TO 63 : SET (H,5,2) :  
NEXT H  
50 FOR Y=1 TO COUNT : READ ITEM$  
(Y) : NEXT Y  
60 DATA ITEM ONE,ITEM TWO,ITEM T  
HREE,ITEM FOUR,ITEM FIVE  
70 FOR U=1 TO COUNT : FOR T=U+1  
TO COUNT  
80 IF LEN(ITEM$(U))>LEN(ITEM$(T))  
THEN BIG$=ITEM$(U) ELSE BIG$=1  
ITEM$(T)  
90 NEXT T : NEXT U  
100 HOP=LEN(BIG$) : BIG=INT(HOP/  
2) : BEGIN=I5-BIG  
110 SPCE$="--"  
120 FOR O=1 TO HOP : SPCE$=SPCE$  
+" " : NEXT O  
130 START=INT(COUNT/2) : OPS=STA  
RT*32 : OP=256-OPS : ST-BEGIN+(O  
P-1)  
140 FOR K=1 TO COUNT  
150 JAKE=INT((BEGIN+OP)/32) : PR  
INT @ BEGIN+OP,SPCE$;
```

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Check Your Calendar

by Steve Blyn
Contributing Editor

thought a program on reading and using calendars would be a timely subject this month. Reading calendars is a language-arts skill usually taught in the second or third grade. The program I've written is suitable for any student who needs to learn or review this skill. It is also a neat introduction to mathematical grids.

Calendar presents a calendar for the month of November, 1990. There are seven vertical columns that stand for the days of the week. The letters that head each column stand for the names of the days of the week.

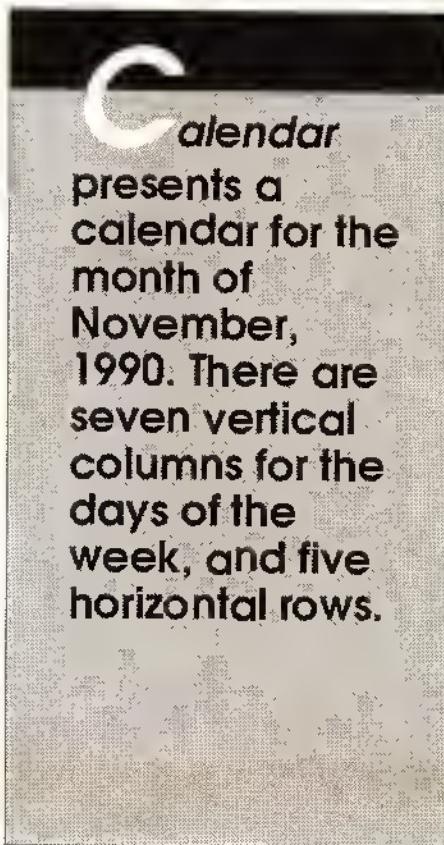
There are five horizontal rows, each of which represents one week or part of one week in the month. The dates are printed in the blocks formed by the rows and columns. This arrangement of rows and columns is called a grid. Students encounter such grids in math and computer studies.

The students should first become familiar with reading the calendar by answering verbal questions such as:

- How many Mondays or Thursdays are there in November?
- How many complete weeks are there in November? How many extra days (beyond four weeks)?
- On what dates do the first and last Sundays or Wednesdays of this month fall?
- Jane cleaned the dishes every Monday and/or Friday this month. How many times did she do the dishes in November?
- Sam went fishing every weekend day in

Steve Blyn teaches both exceptional and gifted children, holds two master's degrees and has won awards for the design of programs to aid the handicapped. He owns Computer Island and lives in Staten Island, New York.

November. How many times did he fish in November?



Personal questions that refer to school events or childrens' birthdays can also be used. And questions about holidays are certainly applicable.

The type of questions shown as examples are specific and require a single answer. For this reason they are appropriate as verbal questions rather than computer-generated questions. Also required is a verbal explanation should the students have difficulty understanding them. The

computer program, on the other hand, uses random numbers that change for each example. When the student answers the question, only the numerical answer needs to be entered. The month and date are not accepted as a correct answer.

The program draws the calendar from lines 40 through 100. The spacing used on these lines is important to help keep the screen accurate. Lines 140 through 310 contain questions and answers. They are designed to ask the students questions in order to help them gain experience using a calendar. Six types of questions are randomly generated. The random numbers used are controlled by Line 120. Hundreds of individual problems are possible within the limits of these parameters. The child's knowledge of addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers is necessary. Students may use either pencil and paper or solve the problems mentally, depending on their abilities.

Each example is checked for correctness on lines 320 and 330. Correct answers receive a happy tune and a message. If an incorrect response is given, the right answer is displayed. After each example, the student may press E to end the program or ENTER to go on to another question. No scorecard is necessary, as most students will master this activity after a number of sessions.

This program lends itself to many modifications. You may first want to change any of the six computer-generated questions. As you change a question, be aware of the random variables in Line 120. These are combined into the variable Y that appears in the program after each question. Variable Y contains the correct answer. You may also want to use the ideas in this program to create a similar program for another month.

16K Extended

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100	176
	170	168
	290	69
	END	180

The Listing: CALENDAR

```

10 REM"READING A CALENDAR"
20 REM"STEVE BLYN, COMPUTER ISLAND, STATEN ISLAND, NY, 1990"
30 CLS5:R=RND(-TIMER)
40 PRINT@3,"calendar for November, 1990";
50 PRINT@64," S M T W
T F S "
60 PRINT@115," 1 2 3 "
70 PRINT@131," 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 "
80 PRINT@162," 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 "

```

```

90 PRINT@194," 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 "
100 PRINT@226," 25 26 27 28 2
9 30 "
110 SDUND 250,1:PRINT@288,STRING
$(64," "):PRINT@384," ":"PRINT@2
88," ";
120 A=1+RND(23):B=1+RND(17):C=1+
RND(20):D=RND(8)+1:E=RND(19)+1:F
=RND(10)+20:G=RND(2)+1
130 S=RND(6):ON S GOTO 140,170,2
00,230,260,290
140 PRINT"ELECTION DAY IS ON NOVEMBER 4. WHAT DATE IS":A;"DAYS LATER";
150 INPUT Z
160 Y=4+A:GOTO 320
170 PRINT"VETERANS DAY IS ON NOVEMBER 12. WHAT DATE IS":B;"DAYS LATER";
180 INPUT Z
190 Y=12+B:GOTO 320
200 PRINT"THANKSGIVING IS ON NOVEMBER 22. WHAT DATE IS":C;"DAYS
EARLIER";
210 INPUT Z
220 Y=22-C:GOTO 320
230 PRINT"WHAT DATE IS":D;"DAYS AFTER":PRINT"NOVEMBER":E;
240 INPUT Z
250 Y=D+E:GOTO 320
260 PRINT"WHAT DATE IS":E;"DAYS BEFORE":PRINT"NOVEMBER":F;
270 INPUT Z
280 Y=F-E:GOTO 320
290 PRINT"WHAT DATE IS":G;"WEEKS AFTER":PRINT"NOVEMBER":H;
300 INPUT Z
310 Y=D+(7*G):GOTO 320
320 IF Z=Y THEN PRINT@396,"CDRRE CT":PLAY"130CDEFGGG"
330 IF Z>Y THEN PRINT@384,"SORRY,":Y;"IS THE ANSWER.":PLAY"14B-"
340 EN$=INKEY$
350 IF EN$=CHR$(13) THEN 110 ELSE 360
360 CLS:END

```

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Electronics 17
Electronics 18

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An instrumental
program for
tracking your
tunes

Music Catalog

by Giancarlo Pillot

A problem often encountered by music collectors is how to inventory their collections. If the collection is large, this is usually quite a chore. *Music Catalog* is designed to give collectors an easily accessible way to keep track of their tunes.

Music Catalog has a number of worthwhile purposes. This program is ideal for users who cannot afford a commercial program, have a small system with little memory or simply can't figure out how to use their current database. The program is very easy to use and completely menu-driven.

The first menu allows you to load and

Giancarlo Pillot uses his pair of CoCo 2s to write software for himself and friends. Most of his experience is with BASIC and assembly language. For further information, he may be contacted at 2938 Saratoga, Troy, MI 48083.

save files, edit the current file or see the disk directory. The Load and Save functions are self-explanatory. Keep in mind that filenames must be eight characters or less and must not include any extensions, periods or slashes (/). The disk directory is immediately retrieved from the current drive and can be paused using SHIFT-@.

The Edit selection of the main menu allows you to add, delete, print or sort the file. Sorting the file at this point puts the contents in alphabetical order by title or artist, but future additions are not inserted in alphabetical order. You'll need to resort. The Print function allows you to print the entire file with or without the listed headings of artist, title, format of record (tape, record, CD, ect.), and type of music.

Music Catalog runs on any system with at least 16K Extended BASIC and a disk drive. If you are using a 16K system, you must enter PCLEAR 1 before running the program. Also, change line 70 to the baud required for your printer. □



16K Disk	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	130
	240
	340
	470
	590
	750
	840
	950
	1060
	1190
	1310
	1440
	1580
	1730
	END
	40

The Listing: MUSIC

```
0 'COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC.  
10 'MUSIC CATALOGUE  
20 'BY GIANCARLO PILLOT  
30 'MADE APRIL, 1990  
40 'VERSION 1.00  
50 CLEAR 1000  
60 DIM T$(100),A$(100),F$(100),T  
Y$(100)  
70 POKE 150,18 'REM SET BAUD RATE  
HERE, CURRENTLY AT 2400  
80 CLS 1  
90 PRINT "THE MUSIC CATALOGUE"  
100 PRINT "BY GIANCARLO PILLOT"  
110 PRINT STRING$(32,131);  
120 PRINT  
130 PRINT "PLEASE CHOOSE AN OPTION:  
140 PRINT TAB(3);"(1) LOAD A FILE"  
150 PRINT TAB(3);"(2) SAVE A FILE"  
160 PRINT TAB(3);"(3) EDIT CURRENT
```

```

NT FILE"
170 PRINT TAB(3);"(4) GET A DISK
 DIRECTORY"
180 A$=INKEY$
190 IF A$<"1" OR A$>"4" THEN 180
200 G=VAL(A$)
210 ON G GOTO 240,450,640,1860
220 STOP
230 'THE FOLLOWING ROUTINE IS
 FOR LOADING FILES
240 CLS
250 PRINT@64."A FILENAME IS 8 CH
 ARACTERS OR"
260 PRINT " LESS AND CONTAINS NO
 PERIODS"
270 PRINT "(.) OR SLASHES (/)"
280 PRINT
290 PRINT "ENTER <^> TO GO BACK"
300 PRINT@0."NAME OF FILE TO LOA
D";
310 INPUT FILE$
320 IF LEN(FILE$)>8 OR LEN(FILE$)
<1 OR INSTR(FILE$,"/") OR INSTR
(FILE$,".") THEN SOUND 100,1:GOT
0 300
330 IF FILE$="^" THEN 80
340 X-1
350 SIZE=0
360 OPEN "1",#1,FILE$+".CAS"
370 IF EOF(1)=1 THEN 410
380 INPUT #1,T$(X),A$(X),F$(X),T
Y$(X)
390 X=X+1
400 GOTO 370
410 SIZE=X-1
420 CLOSE #1
430 GOTO 80
440 'THE FOLLOWING ROUTINE IS
FOR SAVING FILES
450 CLS
460 PRINT@64,"A FILENAME IS 8 CH
ARACTERS OR"
470 PRINT " LESS AND CONTAINS NO
PERIODS"
480 PRINT "(.) OR SLASHES (/)"
490 PRINT
500 PRINT "ENTER <^> TO GO BACK"
510 PRINT@0."NAME OF FILE TO SAV
E";
520 INPUT FILE$
530 IF LEN(FILE$)>8 OR LEN(FILE$)
<1 OR INSTR(FILE$,"/") OR INSTR
(FILE$,".") THEN SOUND 100,1:GOT
0 510
540 IF FILE$="^" THEN 80
550 OPEN "0",#1,FILE$+".CAS"
560 FOR X-1 TO SIZE
570 WRITE#1,T$(X)
580 WRITE#1,A$(X)
590 WRITE#1,F$(X)
600 WRITE#1,TY$(X)
610 NEXT X
620 CLOSE #1
630 GOTO 80
640 CUR-1
650 'DISPLAY/ EDIT MODE
660 CLS
670 PRINT "RECORD #":CUR
680 PRINT"ARTIST:"
690 PRINT A$(CUR)
700 PRINT"TITLE:"
710 PRINTT$(CUR)
720 PRINT "FORMAT OF RECORDING:"
730 PRINT F$(CUR)
740 PRINT "TYPE OF MUSIC:"
```

```

750 PRINT TY$(CUR)
760 PRINT
770 PRINT " aOD sORT dELETE p
RINT qUIT"
780 PRINT "UP AND DOWN ARROWS TO
VIEW"
790 IF SIZE=100 THEN PRINT:PRINT
"FILE FULL"
800 IF SIZE=0 THEN PRINT:PRINT "
FILE EMPTY"
810 A$=INKEY$
820 IF A$="^" AND CUR<SIZE THEN
CUR-CUR+1:GOTO 660
830 IF A$=CHR$(10) AND CUR>1 THE
N CUR-CUR-1:GOTO 660
840 IF A$="A" AND SIZE<100 THEN
910
850 IF A$="S" THEN 1050
860 IF A$="D" THEN 1380
870 IF A$="P" AND SIZE>0 THEN 15
20
880 IF A$="Q" THEN 80
890 GOTO 810
900 'ADD SELECTION
910 CLS
920 PRINT "TYPE 31 CHARACTERS OR
LESS IN RESPONSE"
930 LINEINPUT "ARTIST: ";A$(SIZE
+1)
940 A$(SIZE+1)=LEFT$(A$(SIZE+1),
31)
950 LINEINPUT "TITLE: ";T$(SIZE+
1)
960 T$(SIZE+1)=LEFT$(T$(SIZE+1),
31)
970 LINE INPUT "FORMAT DF RECORO
ING: ";F$(SIZE+1)
980 F$=LEFT$(F$,31)
990 LINE INPUT "TYPE OF MUSIC: "
;TY$(SIZE+1)
1000 TY$(SIZE+1)=LEFT$(TY$(SIZE+
1),31)
1010 SIZE-SIZE+1
1020 CUR-SIZE
1030 GOTO 660
1040 'SORTING BY SINGLE BUBBLE
1050 CLS
1060 PRINT "WOULD YOU LIKE TO SO
RT BY:"
1070 PRINT TAB(3);"(1) ARTIST"
1080 PRINT TAB(3);"(2) TITLE"
1090 A$=INKEY$
1100 IF A$="1" THEN 1130
1110 IF A$="2" THEN 1250
1120 GOTO 1090
1130 PRINT:PRINT "SORTING..."
1140 F=0
1150 FOR X-1 TO SIZE-1
1160 IF A$(X)<-A$(X+1) THEN 1220
1170 T$=T$(X):T$(X)-T$(X+1):T$(X
+1)-T$
1180 T$=A$(X):A$(X)=A$(X+1):A$(X
+1)-T$
1190 T$=F$(X):F$(X)-F$(X+1):F$(X
+1)-T$
1200 T$=TY$(X):TY$(X)-TY$(X+1):T
Y$(X+1)-T$
1210 F=1
1220 NEXT X
1230 IF F=1 THEN 1140
1240 GOTO 660
1250 PRINT:PRINT "SORTING..."
1260 F=0
1270 FOR X-1 TO SIZE-1
1280 IF T$(X)<-T$(X+1) THEN 1340
1290 T$=T$(X):T$(X)=T$(X+1):T$(X
+1)-T$
1300 T$=A$(X):A$(X)=A$(X+1):A$(X
+1)-T$
1310 T$=F$(X):F$(X)=F$(X+1):F$(X
+1)-T$
1320 T$=TY$(X):TY$(X)=TY$(X+1):T
Y$(X+1)-T$
1330 F=1
1340 NEXT X
1350 IF F=1 THEN 1260
1360 GOTO 660
1370 'DELETE A SELECTION
1380 IF SIZE<1 THEN 660
1390 PRINT:PRINT"ARE YOU SURE? (
Y/N)"
1400 A$=INKEY$:IF A$="" THEN 140
0
1410 IF A$="N" THEN 660
1420 FOR X=CUR TO SIZE-1
1430 T$(X)=T$(X+1)
1440 A$(X)=A$(X+1)
1450 F$(X)=F$(X+1)
1460 TY$(X)=TY$(X+1)
1470 NEXT X
1480 SIZE-SIZE-1
1490 IF CUR>SIZE THEN CUR-SIZE
1500 GOTO 660
1510 'PRINTING..
1520 CLS
1530 PRINT "DO YOU WANT TO PRINT
WITH"
1540 PRINT " HEADINGS (Y/N)"
1550 A$=INKEY$
1560 IF A$="" THEN 1550
1570 IF A$="N" THEN 1730
1580 PRINT "PRESS ANY KEY OR <^>
TO ABORT"
1590 A$=INKEY$:IF A$="" THEN 159
0
1600 IF A$="^" THEN 660
1610 FOR X-1 TO SIZE
1620 PRINT#-2
1630 PRINT#-2,"ARTIST:"
1640 PRINT#-2,A$(X)
1650 PRINT#-2,"TITLE:"
1660 PRINT#-2,T$(X)
1670 PRINT#-2,"FORMAT:"
1680 PRINT#-2,F$(X)
1690 PRINT#-2,"TYPE OF MUSIC:"
1700 PRINT#-2,TY$(X)
1710 NEXT X
1720 GOTO 660
1730 PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY OR <^>
TO ABORT"
1740 A$=INKEY$
1750 IF A$="" THEN 1740
1760 IF A$="^" THEN 660
1770 FDR X-1 TO SIZE
1780 PRINT#-2
1790 PRINT#-2,A$(X)
1800 PRINT#-2,T$(X)
1810 PRINT#-2,F$(X)
1820 PRINT#-2,TY$(X)
1830 NEXT X
1840 GOTO 660
1850 'DIRECTORY
1860 CLS
1870 OIR
1880 PRINT FREE(0);"FREE GRANULE
S"
1890 LINE INPUT "PLEASE PRESS <E
NTER>;L$"
1900 GOTO 80

```

New Delphi Rates

by Eddie Kuns
OS-9 SIG Database Manager

Delphi has revised its entire rate schedule. The net result of this action is big savings for most users. The two options are the Basic Plan and the 20/20 Advantage Plan. These plans no longer include telecommunications fees when you are calling direct or via Tymnet.

The Basic Plan costs \$5.95 per month and includes the first hour online. Each additional online hour is \$6. Members of the 20/20 Advantage Plan (all current Advantage Plan members are automatically switched over) receive the first 20 hours of evening access for \$20, and each additional hour is \$1.20. If you haven't logged onto Delphi for several months don't worry, you won't automatically be billed for the monthly Basic Plan fee. You'll be enrolled in one of the two plans only after the next time you dial into Delphi.

Coupled with these price reductions, members now receive free access to help files, billing and other service-related information in the Using Delphi section on the Main menu.

Before I list the telecommunication fees, let me describe the final change. Evening access now starts at 7p.m. Be careful if you normally dial in at 6p.m. Note that these fees are applicable at all times, including the first hour of the Basic Plan and the first 20 hours of the 20/20 Advantage Plan. The add-on telecommunication fees to remember are shown in Table 1.

New in the OS-9 Databases

Those interested in the new "CoCo 4"

Eddie Kuns is pursuing a PhD in physics at Rutgers University. He lives in Aurora, Illinois and works as a programmer and researcher at Fermilab. Eddie is co-manager of the CoCo SIG; his username is EDDIEKUNS.

machines should download the MM/1 and Tomcat News Release and OSker Magazine Announcement file groups in the General Information database. OSker supports the new machines, which run OSK, OS-9 for the 68000 family of CPUs. Paul Seniura released a preliminary version of Weather Radar, a program that allows you to view National Weather Service B-scan reflectivity plots, in the Applications database.

Mike Sweet posted the newest version of Print, a print spooler, in the Utilities database. He also released cgfx, 1 Version 4, a C graphics library. Check it out in the Programmer's Den area.

Bruce Isted contributed device drivers for The Eliminator and patches to enable the CoCo to use an IBM-style serial mouse. John Wesson's King's Quest III patches allow you to use Rick Adams' vi patches

Database Report

OS-9 SIG

General Information

OSKER MAGAZINE ANNOUNCEMENT
RAMMER Jim Hutchins
BADDUNS
WJMOORE Warren Moore
MM/1 AND TOMCAT NEWS RELEASE
COLINMCKAY Colin McKay

Applications

FORTUNE COOKIES!
ZACKSESSIONS Zack Sessions
WEATHER RADAR.
PAULSENIURA Paul Seniura
DUNGEON GAME.
MPASSER Mike Passer
PHIL'S SIMPLE TEXT FORMATTER V2.
THEFERRET Philip Brown
STAR FRONTIERS .HELPER
JBARRETT John Barrett
MINI FORTUNE DATABASE CLONE
MATHOMPSON Matthew Thompson

Utilities

DIRECTORY SORT UTILITY
CTL56 Roger Lawson
PRINT (VERSION 2)
DODGECOLT Mike Sweet
PRINTER SET FOR DMP-106, 105
LDMOORE Larry Moore

Device Drivers

ELIMINATOR SOFTWARE AND MANUAL
BRUCEISTED Bruce Isted

Patches

SERIAL MOUSE PATCHES
BRUCEISTED Bruce Isted
KINGS QUEST III PATCH
DOCBEAR John Wesson

Telcom

WIZ AUTO HELP
OS9UGED Bill Brady

Graphics & Music

RONDO ALLA TURCA
XLIONX Mark W. Farrell
PINBALL MACHINE
TANGERINE Jeff Chapin
PATCH TO SPIRO
ZACKSESSIONS Zack Sessions
X-MEN AND FRIENDS
NES Eric Stringer
BUGS.AR
COLINMCKAY Colin McKay
JESSICA.AR
COLINMCKAY Colin McKay
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
MSCHNEIDER Mike Schneider
MORE SIMPSONS
MSCHNEIDER Mike Schneider

GO BULLS! (VEF GRAPHIC)
ZACKSESSIONS Zack Sessions

BELLS OF SAINT MARY
CTL56 Roger Lawson
CASIO CT-630 .MUUSE3 SONGS
DMACIAS David Macias

MOZART
HAZE Hadley Haze
ENTIRE STAR TREK THEME
MATHOMPSON Matthew Thompson

	Home Time/hr	Office Time/hr
Dial Direct	No charge	No charge
via PC Pursuit	No charge	No charge
via Tymnet	No charge	\$9
Prepaid International	\$1.80	\$1.80
via Telenet or SprintNet	\$1.80	\$12
Canada via Tymnet	\$1.80	\$12
Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico	\$12	\$12

Figure 1: New Telecommunications Fees

to *TSIEdit* by renaming vi to vq. The Graphics & Music database saw a lot of action, receiving plenty of digitized sound files (including the entire *Star Trek* theme, submitted by **Matthew Thompson**), scores for *UltiMusE*, graphics and more.

And in the CoCo SIG ...

Tim Koonce posted a text file describing how to upload to the Delphi databases. Continuing the trend, the CoCo 3 Graphics section saw the most action, receiving quite a number of DS-69B graphics, some in 4096

colors thanks to the skills of **Michael Trammell**. **Eddie Offerman** released a demo of *Revelation!* (a DECB Enhancement) in Utilities and Applications.

Staff Changes

As many of you are already aware, there have been some changes in the CoCo and OS-9 SIG staffs. **Rick Adams (RICKADAMS)** is the new CoCo SIG database manager. **Tim Kientzle (TIMKIENTZLE)** is taking over Rick's duties as the OS-9 consultant — feel free to ask him any questions you might have. Many of you already know Tim as **Tim Koonce**, previously the CoCo SIG database manager. Tim changed his name recently when he got married. Rounding out the changes, I have assumed the title of OS-9 SIG database manager.

SIMPSONS	
MSCHNEIDER	Mike Schneider
Programmers Den	
CGFX COMPATIBLE LIBRARY	
DODGECOLT	Mike Sweet
68K-OS9	
INDEX OF TOP SOFTWARE (OSK)	
TJMARTIN	Timothy Martin

CoCo SIG

General Information
UPLOADING TO THE DATABASES
TIMKOONCE Tim Koonce

CoCo 3 Graphics
PIX FILE FIXER
 STEVEPDX Donald Ricketts
 KATY33.ARC
 TRAS Richard P. Trasborg
 ROCK/POP DS69B COLOR PICS
 STEVEPDX Donald Ricketts
 MORE DS690 16-LEVEL NUDES
 STEVEPDX Donald Ricketts
 MANUAL (GIF/MGE)
 MPMARTIN Mike Martin
 GIF/MGE PARROT
 MPMARTIN Mike Martin
 MORE 4096 COLOR DS69B NUDES
 STEVEPDX Donald Ricketts
 GIF BABE IN SHORTS
 MPMARTIN Mike Martin

4096 DS69B PICS FOR THE FAMILY	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
DS69B 4096 COLOR NUDES	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
4096 COLOR OF JISE'L NUDE	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
4096 COLOR DS69B NUDE	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
4096 FILE OF ROGER RABBIT	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
DS69B COLOR FILE OF BALO' EAGLE	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
C-SEE3.3 SOFTWARE W/PRINT	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
MORE CHRISTINA APPLEGATE	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
SEXY SUMMER WEAR	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
BOB GUCCIONE'S GIRLS, JUNE 1990	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
TV/VIDEO GIRLS	
STEVEPDX	Donald Ricketts
SET OF 14 FONTS	
PYROMANIAC	Richard Goedeken
AWESOME COCO 3 DEMO	
PYROMANIAC	Richard Goedeken
CC3DEMO.BIN	
ALANDEKOK	Alan DeKok
COLLEGE CO-ED - 4096	
BERNIEO	Bernie Olsen

Utilities & Applications

SIMPLE SAMPLE	
MPMARTIN	Mike Martin
REVELATION! DEMO PROGRAMS	
FROSTBYTE!	Eddie Offerman
RAMTEST PROGRAM 1.11	

PYROMANIAC	Richard Goedeken
DATABASE PROGRAM	
PYROMANIAC	Richard Goedeken
SIMPLY BETTER BOOT	
DSRTFOX	Francis Swygen

GAMES	
THE NORT CHALLENGE!	
ALKIMBALL	Alvin Kimball
ZENIX	
JEMGE	Judy Emge

Music & Sound	
RONDEAU.ORG	
BANDMAN.SND	Gary N. McCarty
BUCKERUP.SND	
MICHAELJN	Mike Nelson
BF1NGR.SND	
MICHAELJN	Mike Nelson
SEASONS IN THE SUN	
RONANDERSON	Ron Anderson
ASSORTED SONGS FOR LYRA	
RONANDERSON	Ron Anderson
POLKAS AND WALTZES	
RONANDERSON	Ron Anderson

Telecommunications	
AUTOTERM DL PROBLEM (IE, ERROR)	
JIMHARRISON	Jim Harrison

Product Reviews & Announcement	
THELDA PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENT	
OLDGROUCH	Eric A. Wolf
HOME-PAC REVIEW	
DESKMAN	Bill Condie
CONNECTING COCO TO REAL WORLD	
BILLBARDEN	William Barden, Jr.

Novices Niche

Graphics

4K

Laser Cycles by Robert Rogers

Laser Cycles is an action-video game with colorgraphics and sound that works on all Color Computers. The scenario is simple. It is the year 2034 and two people are playing Laser Lines, a popular sport of the day. In Laser Lines two players must steer laser beams that move in one direction until the player changes its course. When one laser line collides with another (including its own line) or runs into an electro-wall that surrounds the playing field, that person's beam is terminated and the player loses.

Before the game begins, a kaleidoscopic title card appears. Then a ready, get set, go sequence starts the action. Initially the red and blue players' beams start at opposite sides of the screen and go

toward each other. (Laser light travels at the speed of light. Hmm, maybe with POKE 65495,0 or POKE 65497,9 you can break the light barrier! Those with Co-Cos that can handle it should use it.) The joysticks control the directions of the beams. It takes practice to turn just when you want. As you play keep a couple of things in mind. First, don't back up onto your own line. (Don't move the stick down if the line is moving up or the other person will win.) Also, when different colored lines are drawn next to each other, the color of one line will sometimes change to the color of the other line. This is normal and won't affect play since the object of the game is to avoid hitting any colored line. When the game

is over, the screen changes to the winning player's color and his score is displayed. The title card then reappears.

Some modifications can be made to the program. For Color BASIC, the line 345 SOUND 1,1 will add some noise and slow the game. Try it to see if you want this feature. For Extended BASIC, the lines 145 PLAY"T255;L255;01" and 345 PLAY"C" add a noise that sounds neat and doesn't make the game too slow.

Laser Cycles is a simple game that also allows its players to develop strategies to corner other players while, at the same time, not being cornered by them. With this game you can experiment and have fun.

The Listing: LASER

```
0 'COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC.
10 *****
20 '* LASER CYCLES *
30 '* COPYRIGHT (C) 1985 BY *
40 '* ROBERT ROGERS *
50 '* VERSION 1.1 JUNE 1986 *
60 '* FOR 4K COLOR BASIC COCOS *
70 *****
80 GOSUB390
90 CLS0:PRINT@228,"PRESS ANY KEY
WHEN READY";
100 EXEC44539
110 X(1)=9:Y(1)=15:C(1)=3:Z(1)=1
:J(1)=2:K(1)=3
120 X(2)=54:Y(2)=15:C(2)=4:Z(2)=
2:J(2)=0:K(2)=1
130 CLS0:E=0
140 FORT-1T010:B$=B$+CHR$(128):N
EXTT
150 Q=RND(8):1FQ=3 OR Q=4 THEN15
0
160 FORX=1T062:SET(X,1,Q):SET(X,
30,Q):NEXTX
170 FORY=1T030:SET(1,Y,Q):SET(62
,Y,Q):NEXTY
180 PRINT@235,"GET READY!"::SOUN
0125,20
190 PRINT@235,"GET SET!!!"::SOUN
D147,15
200 PRINT@235,"GO!!!!!!"::SOUN
0125,20
210 PRINT@235,B$:
220 FORT=1T02
230 A=JOYSTK(J(T)):B=JOYSTK(K(T)
)
240 IF A<10 THEN Z(T)=1:GOTO280
250 IF A>53 THEN Z(T)=2:GOTO280
260 IF B<20 THEN Z(T)=3:GOTO280
270 IF B>43 THEN Z(T)=4:GOTO280
280 ONZ(T)GOTO290,300,310,320
290 X(T)-X(T)-1:GOTO330
300 X(T)-X(T)+1:GOTO330
310 Y(T)-Y(T)-1:GOTO330
320 Y(T)-Y(T)+1:GOTO330
330 1FP01NT(X(T),Y(T))<>0THENSOU
ND1,10:SET(X(T),Y(T),.5):FORQ=1TO
1000:NEXTQ:GOTO490
340 SET(X(T),Y(T),C(T))
350 NEXTT
360 IF PEEK(345)=247THEN SOUND230,
10:EXEC44539
370 E=E+1
380 GOTO220
390 A=1:B=63:C=1:D=31
400 CLS0
410 L=RND(4):FORX=A-1 TO B:SET(X
,C-1,L):NEXTX:B=B-1:A=A+1:SOUNDR
ND(255),1
420 FORY=C TO 0:SET(B+1,Y,L):NEX
TY:0=0-1:C=C+1:SOUNDRND(255),1
430 1FC>17 THEN480
440 FORX=B TO A-1 STEP-1:SET(X,0
+1,L):NEXTX:B=B-1:A=A+1:SOUNDRND
(255),1
450 FORY=0 TO C STEP-1:SET(A-2,Y
,L):NEXTY:C=C+1:0=0-1:SOUNDRND(2
55),1
460 1FC>17 THEN480
470 GOTO410
480 PRINT@266,"LASER CYCLES"::SO
UND200,6:PRINT@456,"BY ROBERT RO
GERS"::FORQ=1TO1000:NEXTQ:RETURN
490 IFT=1THEN T=2:ELSE T=1
500 CLS(C(T)):PRINT@224,"
PLAYER" T" WON!"
510 FORS=1T02:RESTORE:FORQ=1T013
:READA,B:SOUNDA,B:NEXTQ:NEXTS
520 DATA 204,2,204,4,193,4,204,2
,204,4,193,4,185,2,193,2,197,2,1
93,4,185,2,193,4,176,4
530 Q=2048:E=0-1NT(Q*.1):E=E*10:
E=E+Q:PRINT@224," YOUR SCORE IS"
E"PLAYER" T
540 FORQ=1T01000:NEXTQ
550 RUN
```

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Get a handle on some current communications programs

Terminal Entries

by Jim K. Issel

Having a computer is a lot like having a kid. When first you bring it home, you are delighted. You spend your time feeding and caring for it, but about all it does is make strange noises and "output" a lot of stuff you'd rather do without. As time passes the care and feeding get easier, and the output becomes more meaningful. Soon it outgrows the little corner of your bedroom it originally occupied and wants a room of its own. It needs space for all the toys it has accumulated (some of which are gathering dust in the corner). Just when you get that taken care of and think everything is going well, the darn thing becomes a teenager and wants its own phone!

As you and your computer begin to make computer buddies at remote sites, you are drawn inexorably into the realm of telecommunications. To establish residency in this strange and mystic world, you will need three new components for your computer system: a modem, a phone line and a data-communications or terminal program. You will also need extensive vocabulary additions to accommodate buzz words such as *band rate*, *parity*, *duplex*, *carrier*, ad infinitum. In this article I assume your familiarity with the most basic of these terms and concentrate on looking at a number of terminal programs that run under Disk BASIC: *Delphiterm*, *MikeyTerm*, *UltimateTerm*, and *V-Term*.

In playing with these programs, I used a CoCo 3 with 128K, dual disk drives, an RS-

232 Pak, monochrome monitor and a Multi-Pak Interface. I experimented with them on three different remote systems over a period of several weeks. I also chatted with a number of terrific people on Delphi and solicited their opinions. I have found over the years that when it comes to word processors, whatever program people learn first is the one they like best forever. I did not find this to be the case with terminal programs. Most of the people with whom I talked have switched at least once, and some even use different programs for different tasks.

Perhaps the explanation for this is that all of these programs are entirely first-rate. Each supplies the basic capabilities necessary for telecommunication, along with its own additional touches and personality. Some are designed to accommodate specific needs, such as *Delphiterm's* obvious slant toward Delphi parties, while others are more generic. All of them, though, are well-designed, function smoothly, and are refreshingly free of self-indulgent hype. None claims to be perfect for all users under all circumstances, and all invite feedback and suggestions. This is my kind of atmosphere!

MikeyTerm

MikeyTerm, written by Mike Ward, was actually the first data-communications package I used. Although *MikeyTerm* has gone through some revisions since then, it retains its original flavor, providing solid functionality in an easy to use package. To begin, there is a separate configuration program that is fairly clear and simple. This enables you to do things such as set the display mode and only needs to be run once.

There were a couple of prompts in the

Jim Issel is a software support manager and teaches computer classes at a local community college. He, his wife Debbie, and son, Jason, live in Cotati, California.

configuration process that I didn't immediately understand. And having stupidly misplaced my updated *MikeyTerm* documentation, I gave some inappropriate responses. The result was a minor loss of functionality — minor in that I failed to figure out which functions I had disabled and didn't miss them. From this you may correctly infer that *MikeyTerm* is delightfully easy to decipher. Access to most features is gained by using the CTRL key in combination with the numeric keys. File transfers, buffer manipulation and baud rate changes are all available in this manner. In addition CTRL-7 displays a menu that provides access to additional commands.

Buffer manipulation is the ability to capture incoming data in the computer's main storage area. This ability is smoothly implemented in *MikeyTerm*, although there are fewer buffer features as in some other packages. The capture feature is easily toggled on and off. The contents of the buffer can be viewed, cleared, saved to disk or sent to the remote system. Another useful capability in *MikeyTerm* is the option to

view the buffer one line at a time or one screen at a time. I did not notice a command to print the buffer, but this may have been one of the things I inadvertently turned off.

File transfers between your CoCo and the remote machine are easily initiated and run without difficulty. The only protocol available is Xmodem. I have not found a remote system that fails to support Xmodem. I don't find this limitation troublesome since some of the BBSs I frequent support only Xmodem. I made several file transfers in both directions and encountered few problems.

The 80-column screen display is new since I last used *MikeyTerm*. On my monochrome monitor, the display is crisp and clear. When you are not using any of the control key commands and have the program in the *terminal mode*, *MikeyTerm* displays only the data being transmitted back and forth. There are no onscreen status lines or copyright messages.

In complete fairness to *MikeyTerm*, I should have downloaded the documentation again and scoured it for anything I had

missed. For example, I found no evidence of macro capabilities or scripting. I had enormous amounts of fun exploring it blindly and had satisfying results. As I remembered from the earlier version, *MikeyTerm* is intuitive, clear and entirely adequate for most telecommunication needs. If you are in need of a program that emulates a specific type of terminal, such as a 3270 or a VT-52, you'll have to look further. Otherwise *MikeyTerm* will get you going.

Delphiterm

Delphiterm, written by Rick Adams, is a terminal program designed to facilitate connection to Delphi. Ignore the limitations suggested by its name. *Delphiterm* is a versatile package and well-suited for connection to most remote systems.

Delphiterm is a machine-language program. It also includes a BASIC driver that establishes a number of parameters, such as baud rate, screen colors and default disk drives. The documentation clearly describes all the parameters, which are initialized to appropriate settings for Delphi access.

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Paul K. Ward February '90 Rainbow Review

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Delphiterm provides a broad array of features, all of which are thoroughly described in the manual. File transfers can be made using either Xmodem or Ymodem protocols. An innovative touch is *Delphiterm's* file-transfer alarm, which causes the terminal to beep when a transfer is complete. Again I had no problems with file transfers in either direction.

Delphiterm has the most impressive set of buffer manipulation commands I have ever seen. You can toggle the buffer on and off to capture incoming data. You can load a disk file into the buffer or save the buffer contents to disk. It can be viewed, printed, deleted and even edited without disrupting your remote session. You can enter text into the buffer directly from the keyboard. You can send it to the remote system. You can even mark a section of the text and send, print or save only the block that is marked. I found this feature especially useful. With this marking feature, I can capture an on-going session in the buffer and still print only a particular section.

A macro is a method of sending a potentially long string of data or commands with a small number of keystrokes. The macro capabilities of *Delphiterm* are unique and useful. To use macros in *Delphiterm* you need to create a separate text file on disk called MACROS.TXT. When the program starts, this file is read into a macro buffer, which is different from the capture buffer discussed above. Once loaded, the macro buffer cannot be edited.

Rather than referencing macros using predetermined keys, such as the function keys or certain control keys, *Delphiterm* allows you to name each macro that is to be used. By initiating the Send Macro command, you can send your macros by name. Examples in the manual illustrate how this feature can be used while in Delphi conference, when several people are electronically chatting together. Macros can be given names such as LAUGHTER or EMERGENCY (large quantities of coffee will cause these) and sent quickly and easily at the appropriate times.

In addition to the named macros, the ALT-0 through ALT-9 keys along with the two function keys can be used to send macros. These keys can be programmed to include a number of special characters, such as carriage return, ALT, and wait for response. This feature allows for some additional functionality of the keyboard. You can program these keys to do things such as carry out your entire dialing and logging on procedure. To complete the macro capabilities, four macro names are reserved for use with the joystick buttons. This will at least temporarily emancipate you from the keyboard.

Other *Delphiterm* commands allow you to toggle the line feed mode, change the baud rate, enter conference mode, and display a help screen that lists all the available commands. Conference mode adds an additional line to the screen. In this highlighted line, all of your data is visible until the information is transmitted with the ENTER key. It is extremely helpful not to have your typing interspersed with incoming conversation from other users while chatting on Delphi conference.

For CoCos with 512K, *Delphiterm* also provides two RAM disks. I tried this feature on a borrowed 512K machine and was very happy with the results. It is certainly different doing disk operations at the speed of RAM!

From a user's perspective, *Delphiterm* is a marvelous and flexible program. I particularly like the enhanced buffer commands. The program is very easy to operate. Although my overall impression is favorable, there were a couple of things that left me less than delighted. The most significant of these is the screen display. The screen is designed for use with an RGB monitor. With my monochrome monitor, the display is rather fuzzy and gets hard on my old eyes after extensive use. My other complaint is a minor one. Although I am completely at home with BASIC, I prefer using a configuration program to modify lines of code in a BASIC loader. I have friends with CoCos who do not program. I am sure this procedure would be nerve-racking, if not difficult, for them.

Ultimaterm

Ultimaterm, written by Ken Johnston, is a program with a wide following. It is the terminal program of choice among many of the people I questioned. The reasons are obvious once you work with it. *Ultimaterm* supports a broad assortment of features, including several terminal emulation modes.

During your initial *Ultimaterm* session, there are several definable parameters worthy of study. The options menus allow you to define settings for your disk drive, modem, keyboard, printer, screen display and programmable macro keys. The chapter in the manual that describes the initial setup is 11 pages long! Most of these are preset at the most common values. If you try to be macho and plunge ahead without looking at them, you may end up, as I did initially, with an apparently nonfunctioning program. I had my RS-232 Pak in Slot 2 of the Multi-Pak Interface, while the programmed default is for Slot 1.

Disk parameters include the default drive for saving or loading files, a verify function, and the stepping rate. Definable modem settings cover duplex, baud rate, RS-232 Pak

usage and terminal type. Printer options allow you to indicate the baud rate and a printer line delay if you are using an older printer that needs to be reset after each line printed.

There are 10 macro keys, accessed with the CTRL and numeric keys. When you define one of these to hold a string of text, that string is sent to the remote system by entering that macro key. In addition, the function keys can be programmed with command strings. The difference is that the CTRL and numeric keys cause text to be sent while the function keys are interpreted as commands to *Ultimaterm*. The default function key settings enable you to make file transfers with a single keystroke.

Other options available in *Ultimaterm* allow you to set the key repeat rate, turn key-click on and off, toggle the display mode between monochrome and color, and enable upper- and lowercase. Once the parameters are set, a save command stores them so that *Ultimaterm* will always start with those settings.

Many of *Ultimaterm's* features are similar to those discussed above. The buffer can be saved to, or loaded from, disk. It can also be transmitted, displayed or printed. Conference mode is available, and file transfers can be accomplished using Xmodem, Ymodem, or Xmodem/CRC protocols. There is also a very useful screen-print function.

The ability to emulate the functioning of specific types of terminals, including VT-100 and VT-52, is one capability of *Ultimaterm* that is not offered in *Delphiterm* or *MikeyTerm*. This is a very handy capability to have when logging onto a system that expects a certain terminal type. The difficulty in using a specific terminal emulation mode is in accessing all of the characters, like curly braces and circumflexes, not found on a CoCo keyboard. The *Ultimaterm* documentation does a good job of describing each mode's use.

Even though I was very impressed with the extensive set of features offered by *Ultimaterm* and the clear, thorough manual, I did have a few disconcerting problems with the program. Access to most of the commands is attained by use of pop-up menus, which appear in the center of the screen. If the screen is already full, the menus can be difficult to see. As a less than ideal typist, I would inadvertently bring up a menu and wonder why none of my subsequent keystrokes had the desired effect.

I also had difficulty with the VT-100 emulation mode. At work I have remote access to the Unix system that regularly handles VT-100 terminals for word processing and such. With *Ultimaterm*, I had so many problems using the Unix editor in VT-100 mode that I finally gave up.

V-Term

V-Term, written by Tim Koonee and licensed to Gimmesoft, is my favorite program of this bunch. *V-Term* offers several terminal emulation modes, solid functionality, extensive documentation, and it's easy to use.

V-Term may simply appeal to my lizard brain. When I first loaded it, the screen display was so exceptionally clear and sharp that I found myself saying silly things like "Ooohh!" At the bottom of the display, an inverse video command window provides access to all of the program's features by using a hierarchical interface reminiscent of *Lotus 1-2-3*. By holding down the ALT key and entering the first, or sometimes the capitalized, letter of the desired command, you change the command window to show the available suboptions for that command. It also allows text entry when appropriate, such as to specify a filename. With some general understanding of telecommunications, it is possible to use *V-Term* just by perusing the onscreen commands for a short time.

V-Term offers file transfers via Xmodem, Ymodem, and Xmodem/CRC. I had no problem with transfers in both directions. Buffer commands do not include editing or marking capability. Displaying, loading, saving, and clearing the buffer can be done, though, on an alternate screen without disruption to ongoing communication. You can also set up multiple buffers with different names and treat each independently.

V-Term's terminal emulation modes function well. I am happily editing on our Unix system even as I type. Configuring *V-Term* is simply a matter of modifying the parameter within the command menu, then using the Save Parameter command.

The *V-Term* manual is excellent. At the beginning is a thorough explanation of basic data communication concepts, followed by a summary of all of the program's menus as they appear on the screen. There is also a comprehensive discussion of the commands and features, including the various terminal emulation modes.

Despite the above praise of *V-Term*, I do find fault with the program. On start-up, the program tells you it is loading the default parameter file. This happens whether or not such a file is found. This message does not disappear from the screen until you press a key. Once you are used to it, this is no longer a problem. The file has finished loading when the disk stops spinning. Sometimes programs read more than one file from disk. When I first started using *V-Term*, I was never sure when it had finished loading files.

Another problem is that upon exiting the program my computer is frozen, which

means I have to turn it off and on again. I tried several configurations of my equipment and could not alleviate the problem.

In VT-100 mode, I often type an *i* and get an *e* instead. Occasionally, I get an *i* when I press the *t*. I'm not sure what causes this intermittent behavior, but it is a condition peculiar to *V-Term*.

The lack of macros is my only other complaint with *V-Term*. Since I use a dumb terminal for telecommunication, I have never gotten into the habit of using macros extensively. In otherwise comprehensive packages, this is a noticeable omission.

What conclusions can be drawn from all of this? Well, there are some excellent programmers out there writing superlative software for our Color Computers. I did no timing test or feature-by-feature comparisons between these programs. Each of these programs is functionally smooth, and designed to fill gaps left by others. If you are new to telecommunications, you can start quickly with *MikeyTerm*. Delphi party animals will appreciate *Delphiterm*. Power macro users are likely to enjoy *Ultimaterm*. And if Unix connectivity is what you need, then try *V-Term*. Choose one, log onto Delphi, and let me know how you like it.

For More Information . . .

V-Term is available for \$39.95 from Gimmesoft. Write or call:

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P.O. Box 421
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MikeyTerm is available on Delphi and CompuServe. It can also be obtained by sending \$10, a blank disk or tape and a reusable mailer to:

Mike Ward
1807 Cortez
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Delphiterm can be downloaded from the CoCo SIG on Delphi or obtained by sending \$10, a disk and a mailer to:

Rick Adams
702 Monroe Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Ultimaterm is available on Delphi and CompuServe, or from the author as shareware (registration fee \$25). Write to:

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CoCo Tours the States

by Fred B. Scerbo
Contributing Editor

If you have an idea for the "Wishing Well," submit it to Fred c/o THE RAINBOW. Remember, keep your ideas specific, and don't forget this is BASIC. All programs resulting from your wishes are for your use, but remain the property of the author.

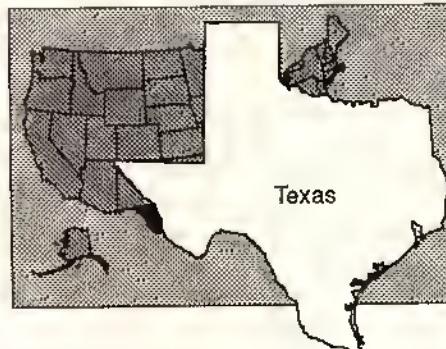
Recently I sat with my fiance and discussed where we could go for our honeymoon. (By the time you read this, we will have returned.) We looked at a map of the continental United States to plot our route.

All this planning over the map was the source of this month's Wishing Well idea. *Fifty States* is the latest installment in our series of educational programs using the *Opposites* shell. Using a whole new set of graphics data, we have expanded this shell to just about the outside limit of its storage capacity.

The original *Opposites* program was designed to hold 20 sets of graphics images (two each for a total of 40). With *Fifty States*, we push this shell to a maximum of 50 sets, for a total of 100 graphics images.

In order to get all 50 states into one program, without breaking it into two parts, it was necessary to create this graphics data with an absolute minimum of commands. The DRAW command can be very efficient, but if you follow the original CoCo handbook and use semi-colons between drawing directions, your program will be too long. Many of us abandoned the use of

semi-colons years ago. For newcomers, though, it probably doesn't hurt to restate this fact.



Using the Program

Fifty States was designed to help stu-

dents recognize the appearance of our 50 states. Recent polls have shown that geography is an area of weakness for many American students. This program allows students to brush-up on these skills, and is a good way for young CoCo users to get an early grasp of geography.

The program works like all others in this series. I won't bore regular readers with the same explanation I usually include. Suffice it to say that Choice A lets the user review all 50 map shapes and names simply by pressing the ENTER key.

Choices B and C ask you to match a map with a state name, from the list of state names that accompany each map, simply by pressing the space bar and ENTER key.

32K Extended

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25 89 1200 170 1950 237 50 190 1260 97 2010 88 75 14 1320 246 2080 1 125 216 1400 82 2130 63 170 112 1490 123 2190 150 230 127 1550 190 2250 15 280 212 1590 94 2330 78 305 138 1650 217 2390 223 345 239 1710 53 2430 231 1020 39 1780 62 2490 207 1070 240 1830 4 END 197 1140 56 1900 242
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The Listing: STATES

```

1 REM*****  

2 REM*      THE FIFTY STATES      * PRINTCHR$(A+128);:NEXT  

3 REM*      COPYRIGHT (C) 1990      * 20 PRINTSTRING$(32,195):STRING$(  

4 REM*      BY FRED B. SCERBO      * 32,179);  

5 REM*      60 HARDING AVENUE      * 25 DATA126,124,124,124,120,113,1  

6 REM*      NORTH ADAMS, MA 01247    * 24,124,124,114,48,53,60,60,56,62  

7 REM*****  

10 CLEAR3000  

15 CLS0:PRINTSTRING$(32,188):STR  

1NG$(32,204)::FORI=1TO128:READA:  

9,51,51,58,56,53,,56,59,51,53,51

```

Fred Scerbo is a special needs instructor for the North Adams Public Schools in North Adams, Massachusetts. He holds a master's in education and has published some of the first software available for the Color Computer through his software firm, Illustrated Memory Banks.



Pyramix

This is a fascinating CoCo 3 game of skill and coordination. Pyramix is 100% machine language written exclusively to take advantage of all the power in your 128K CoCo 3. The Colors are brilliant, the graphics sharp, the action fast. Written by Jordon Tsvetkoff and a product of ColorVenture. Disk: \$19.95



The Freedom Series



Vocal Freedom

Vocal Freedom turns your computer into a digital voice recorder. The optional Hacker's Pac lets you incorporate voices or sounds that you record into your own BASIC or ML programs. This is not a synthesizer. Sounds are digitized directly into computer memory so that voices or sound effects sound very natural. One "off-the-shelf" application for Vocal Freedom is an automatic message minder. Record a message for your family into memory. Set Vocal Freedom on automatic. When Vocal Freedom "hears" any noise in the room, it plays the prerecorded message directly from its Random Access Memory with amazing fidelity! You may also SAVE or LOAD sounds to and from DISK. VF also tests memory

to take advantage of from 64K up to a full 512K. Requires low cost amplifier (RS cat. #277-1008) and any microphone. Will run on a CoCo 1, 2, or 3. Vocal Freedom Disk: \$34.95. Optional Hacker's Pac Disk: \$19.95. Disk for both: \$49.95

Mental Freedom

Would your friends be impressed if your computer could read their minds? Mental Freedom uses the techniques of Biofeedback to control video game action on the screen. Telekinesis? You control the action with your thoughts and emotions. Your goal is to materialize and levitate objects with the power of your mind while avoiding the insidious cobra. Mental Freedom teaches peace of mind in the face of adversity. Mental Freedom even talks in a perfectly natural voice without using a speech synthesizer! Requires Radio Shack's low cost Biofeedback monitor, Cat. #63-675. Will run on a CoCo 2 or 3 but not CoCo 1. Disk: \$24.95



Lightning Series

These three utilities give real power to your CoCo 3.

Ramdisk Lightning

This is the best Ramdisk available. It lets you have up to 4 mechanical disk drives and 2 Ram drives on-line and is fully compatible with our Printer Lightning. Disk: \$19.95

Printer Lightning

Load it and forget it--except for the versatility it gives you. Never wait for your printer again! Printer runs at high speed while you continue to work at the keyboard! Disk: \$19.95

Backup Lightning

Reads your master disk once and then makes super fast multiple disk backups on all your drives! No need to format blank disks first! Supports 35, 40 or 80 track drives. This utility requires 512K. Disk: \$19.95

CoCo Braille

Produce standard grade 2 Braille on a Brother daisy wheel printer. Easy to use for sighted or blind user. No knowledge of Braille is necessary. Call for free sample. Will run on CoCo 1, 2, or 3. Disk: \$69.95

VDOS the Undisk

VDOS, The Undisk, ramdisk for the CoCo 1 or 2 only. Available only on tape: \$24.95

VDUMP, backup Undisk files to single tape file. Requires VDOS. Tape: \$14.95

VPRINT, Print Undisk directory. Requires VDOS. Tape: \$9.95

Add \$2.50 shipping/handling in USA or CANADA

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Pressing @ allows you to check your score during the quiz, while pressing C allows you to continue from the menu.

Making Things Easier

You will find that the data required to generate all 50 states takes up quite a bit of space for this program. For those of you

who will be entering this by hand, I have arranged the DATA statements so they will be identical to those needed for next month's program, which will be a revised *Match Game* shell designed to hold these expanded DATA statements. Even the numbering will be the same, which should save some of you a great deal of typing time.

Conclusion

In any case, I think you will find both this program and next month's listing are valuable additions to your software library. Both are fun and educational.

Perhaps next month I will be able to tell you how many states my bride and I went through on our honeymoon. □

```

51
35 DATA,,,112,122,117,,,112,122,
.48,,58,,53,,5B,,4B,58,,53,,5
8,,,53
40 DATA121,115,115,115,120,116,1
15,115,115,120,48,49,51,51,58,,5
5,50,,59,48,49,58,,55,50,,59,51,
49,51,55
45 PRINT@358," AN INTRODUCTION T
O "::PRINT@390." THE FIFTY STA
TES ";
50 PRINT@422," BY FRED B. SCERBO
 "::PRINT@454," COPYRIGHT (C)
1990 ";
55 X$-INKEY$:IFX$<>CHR$(13)THEN5
5
60 D1M P$(50,2),A$(6),B$(50),C$(5
0),A(50),N(50),B(4),C(4),D(4),E
(4),F(4),AO(50)
65 FORI-1T03:READ C(I),D(1),E(1)
,F(1):NEXT:FORI-1T06:READA$(1):N
EXT:FORI-1T05:REAOP$(I,1),P$(I,
2):NEXT
70 COLOR1,0
75 CLS:PRINT:PRINTSTRING$(32,"-"
)::PRINT@102,"AN INTRODUCTION TO
)::PRINT@135,"THE FIFTY STATES":P
RINT@199."A) REVIEW STATES":PRIN
T@263,"B) QUIZ STATES":PRINT@327
."C) QUIZ NAMES"
80 PRINT@388,"<<<SELECT YOUR CHO
ICE>>>"
85 PRINT:PRINTSTRING$(32,"-");
90 X$-INKEY$:X-RND(-T1MER):IFX$-
"A"THEN345ELSE1FX$-"B"THEN95ELSE
IFX$-"C"THEN250ELSE90
95 CLS0:PMODE0,1:PCLS1
100 LINE(0,0)-(254,170),PRESET,B
105 LINE(6,4)-(122,82),PRESET,BF
110 LINE(128,4)-(248,82),PRESET,
B
115 LINE(6,B6)-(122,164),PRESET,
B
120 LINE(128,B6)-(248,164),PRESE
T,8
125 DRAW"BM26,1BBC0NU10R10NU10BR
6R10U6L10U4R10BR6NR10D4NR1006R10
BR12B6NE402F4BR6R10U6L10U4R10BR
6N010R10D4NL10BR6NR1006U10R10D10
BR6NR10U10R108R6NR1004NR10D6R108
R10U10NL4R10D4NL10D6NL148R6U10"
126 DATA"R10D4NL10D6BR6U10R10D4L
10R4F6BR6E4U2H4"
130 DATA@130,.6,246,80,6,86,120,16
2,130,86,246,162
135 PAINT(2,2),0,0:PCOPY1TD3
140 PM00E0,4:PCLS1
145 LINE(0,0)-(254,170),PRESET,B
F
150 LINE(8,6)-(120,80),PSET,BF
155 PCOPY4T02:PM00E0,1:SCREEN1,1
160 DATA"S48M4,8C1" "S48M130,8C0"
."S48M4,90C0"."S48M130,90C0"."S
4BM4,48C0" ."S48M130,48C0"
165 FORI-1T050

```

```

170 A(1)-RNO(50):IFN(A(1))-1THEN
170
175 N(A(1))-1:NEXTI:FORY-1TD50:C
OLOR1,0
180 FORI-2T04
185 B(1)-RND(3)+1:IFN(B(I))-0THE
N1B5
190 N(B(1))-0:NEXTI:FOR1-1T04:N(
I)-1:NEXT
195 B-RND(50):1FB-A((Y))THEN195
200 C-RNO(50):IFC-B OR C-A((Y))T
HEN200
205 DRAW A$(1):DRAWPS(A(Y),1)
210 DRAW A$(8(2)):DRAWPS(B,2)
215 DRAW A$(B(3)):DRAWPS(C,2)
220 DRAW A$(B(4)):DRAWPS(A(Y),2)
225 COLOR1,0
230 Z-0
235 PMDD0,4
240 DRAW A$(1)+"C0":DRAWPS(A(Y),
1)
245 DRAW A$(B(2))+"C1":DRAWPS(B,
2)
250 DRAW A$(B(3))+"C1":DRAWPS(C,
2)
255 DRAW A$(B(4))+"C1":DRAWPS(A(
Y),2)
260 PMDD0,1:SCREEN1,1
265 LINE(8,6)-(120,80),PSET,B
270 X$-INKEY$:IFX$- " THEN2B0ELS
E1FX$-@"THEN2520
275 COLOR1,0:LINE(8,6)-(120,80),
PRESET,B:GOT0265
280 Z-Z+1:IFZ-4THENZ-1
285 COLOR1,0:LINE(C(Z),D(Z))-(E(
Z),F(Z)),PSET,B
290 X$-INKEY$:IFX$- " THEN2B0ELS
E1FX$-CHR$(13)THEN300ELSE1FX$-@"
"THEN2520
295 CDLOR1,0:LINE(C(Z),D(Z))-(E(
Z),F(Z)),PRESET,B:GOT0285
300 IFZ+1-B(4)THEN310
305 NW-NW+1:FORK-1T05:PMODE0,4:S
CREEN1,1:SOUND1,3:PMODE0,1:SCRE
EN1,1:SOUND1,3:NEXTX:GOT02B5
310 NC-NC+1:PMODE0,4:PCLS1:LINE(
0,40)-(256,126),PRESET,B:LINE(6,
44)-(124,122),PRESET,B:LINE(13,
44)-(248,122),PRESET,B:PAINT(2,4
2),0,0
315 DRAW A$(5):DRAWPS(A(Y),1)
320 DRAW A$(6):DRAWPS(A(Y),2)
325 SCREEN1,1
330 X$-INKEY$:IFX$<>CHR$(13)THEN
330
335 PMODE0,1
340 PCOPY3T01:SCREEN1,1:PCOPY2T0
4:NEXTY:GOT02520
345 PMODE0,2:PCLS1:SCREEN1,1:LIN
E(0,40)-(256,126),PRESET,B:LINE(
6,44)-(124,122),PRESET,B:LINE(13
0,44)-(248,122),PRESET,B:PAINT(2
,42),0,0
350 FORI-1T050:DRAW A$(5):DRAWPS
(1,1)
355 DRAW A$(6):DRAWPS(1,2)
360 X$-INKEY$:IFX$<>CHR$(13)THEN
360
365 COLOR1,0:LINE(8,46)-(122,120
),PSET,BF:LINE(132,46)-(246,120)
,PSET,BF:NEXTI
370 RUN
1000 REM ALABAMA
1010 DATA"BR48BD60U20M+4,-30R30M
+4,+40LD6L26D6L10"
1020 DATA"BR12BD40U12R806NL806R
6NU12R6BR6U12R8D6NL8D6BR6R2U12NL
2R8D6NL8D6NL8BR6U12RBD6NL8D6BR6U
12R6N012R6D12BR6U12RBD6NL806"
1030 REM ALASKA
1040 DATA"BR14BD64NU2R6U4NL6BR6N
U2R6U4NL6BR6NU2R6U4NL6BR6E6U2L12
H6U6E2R6E2U2H2L4U4E2R4F2E4H4U4R1
2U2R16D2R12D38R4F6R4F10D4L4H10L4
H6L6H6LBM-16,+10H2"
1050 DATA"BR22B040U12R8D6NL8D6R
6NU12R6BR6U12R8D6NLBD6BR6R8U6L8U
6RBB012BR6U12D6R4NE6F6BR6U12R8D6
NL806"
1060 REM ARIZONA
1070 DATA"BR34BD50M+30,+12R22U54
L40D8L6G4DBF4G40F4G6"
1080 DATA"BR18BD40U12RBD6NL8D6BR
6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6NU12BR6NR8M+8,-
12NL88D12BR6U12RBD12NL8BR6U12M+8
,+12NU12BR6U12R8D6NL6D6"
1090 REM ARKANSAS
1100 DATA"BR34B050F4R4D6R40U8M+1
0,-38L6U4L56M+4,+40
1110 DATA"BRBB040U12R8D6NL8D6BR6
U12RBD6L8R2F6BR6U12D6R2NE6F6BR6U
12RBD6NL8D6BR6U12M+6,+12NU12BR6R
8U6LBU6RBB012BR6U12R8D6NLBD6BR6R
8U6LBU6R8"
1120 REM CALIFORNIA
1130 DATA"BR6BB070NR22U6H10L4H10
U4H4R4U4L4H6U10H4E4UBR30026F28D6
F2G2D6"
1140 DATA"BR14B040L6U12R6BD12BR4
U12R8D6NL8D6BR6NU12R4BR6NU12BR4U
6NR6U6R8B012BR4U12R6012NL6BR6U12
R8D6L8R2F6BR6U12M+6,+12NU12BR6N
12BR6U12RBD6NL8D6"
1150 REM COLORADO
1160 DATA"BR32B052R60U40L60040BE
26E4R6F4"
1170 DATA"8R14BD40L6U12R68012BR6
U12R8012NL8BR6NU12R6BR6U12R8D12N
L8R6U12RBD6L8R2F6BR6U12R8D6NL80
6BR6R2U12L2R10D12NL88R6U12R8D12L
B"
1180 REM CONNECTICUT
1190 DATA"BR288062M+20,-8R28E4R2
0E4U30L68D30F4M-16,+60R2"
1200 DATA"8R12BD40L6U12R6BD12BR4
U12R6D12NL6BR4U12M+8,+12NU12BR4U
12M+8,+12NU12BR4R4N4U6NR4U6R4B0D12
BR4NR6U12R6BR4R4ND12R4BR4D12BR4N
R6U12R6BR4012R6U128R4R4ND12R4"
1210 REM DELAWARE

```

```

1220 DATA"BR44BD62NR30U50E8RBF2D
4G6D12F6M+10,+26"
1230 DATA"BR6BD40R2NU12R8U12NL10
BR6NR6D6NR6D6R6BR6NU12R6BR6U12R8
D6NL8D6BR6NU12R6NU12R6NU12BR6U12
R8D6NL8D6BR6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6NR6U
6NR6U6R6"
1240 REM FLDR1DA
1250 DATA"BR20BD8R28F4R26F2R4U6R
10D10M+18,+30D16G4L12H8U4M-16,-9
U6E2U4H12L8G6L6H10L10U4H2U2"
1260 DATA"BR16BD40U6NR8U6R8BR6D1
2R6BR6U12R8D12NL8BR6U12R8D6L8R2F
6BR6U12BR6R2ND12RBD12NL10BR6U12R
8D6NL8D6"
1270 REM GEORGIA
1280 DATA"BR40BD56U20M-8,-30R36G
2F30D6L2D8F2D4L10D6L4U4L36H6"
1290 DATA"BR16BD40NR8U12R8BD6NL4
D6BR6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6D12R8D12NL8
BR6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6NR8U12R8BD6NL
4D6BR6NU12BR6U12R8D6NL8D6"
1300 REM HAWAII
1310 DATA"BR12BD16NU4R6U4NL4BR8F
4R6E2U4H2L6G4D2BR16BD6R4E4R4F6D4
L12NH4BR20E2R8F2G2L8NH2B6D6R4D4L4
U4BR10E4R4F4R6D4L12H4BD14BR8D4G4
D4R2D4F4R4E8R4E4U4H4L4H2L10"
1320 DATA"BR22BD40U12D6R8U6D12BR
6U12R8D6NL8D6BR6NU12R8NU12R8NU12
BR6U12R8D6NL8D6BR8NU12BR8NU12"
1330 REM IDAHO
1340 DATA"BR44BD60R40U20L10U2H4U
2L4M-8,-22U6L12D30F4G8F2D10"
1350 DATA"BR28BD40NU12BR8R2U12L2
R10D12NL8BR6U12R8D6NL8D6BR6U12D6
R8U6D12BR6U12R8D12L8"
1360 REM ILLINOIS
1370 DATA"BR46BD6R30D6F2D30G2D4G
2D4G2L4D2F4D2L8H2L4G2L2H4U6H10U4
E2U2H6U2E6U4R6E4U4H4"
1380 DATA"BR16BD40NU12BR8NU12R6B
R6NU12R6BR8NU12BR8U12M+8,+12U12B
R6ND12R8D12NL8BR8NU12BR8R8U6L8U6
R8"
1390 REM INDIANA
1400 DATA"BR46BD8ND30R36D36F2D2G
6L4G8L2G4L4H4L2G6L2H4U6E2U4E4UB"
1410 DATA"BR16BD40U12L10U2H6U12M-6,
+12U12BR8R2ND12R8D12NL10BR8NU12B
R8U12R8D6NL8D6BR6U12M+8,+12U12B
R6U12R8D6NL8D6"
1420 REM IOWA
1430 DATA"BR40BD18R42D2F4D4F6D6G
2L4D4G4D4L4H2L30H2U4H4U4H6U4E2U2
H6R8"
1440 DATA"BR32BD40NU12BR8U12R8D1
2NL8BR6NU12R6NU12R6NU12BR6U12RBD
6NL8D6"
1450 REM KANSAS
1460 DATA"BR32BD18R52D2F4D4F4D20
L60U32"
1470 DATA"BR20BD40U12D6R2NE6F6BR
6U12R8D6NL8D6BR6U12M+6,+12NU12BR
6R8U6L8U6R8D12BR6U12R8D6NL8D6BR
6R8U6L8U6R8"
1480 REM KENTUCKY
1490 DATA"BR18BD48R80E4R2E4U2E4H
4L2H4U4H4L2G2L4H6L4U2L8D4G4L4G4L-
8G4L4H4L4G8L4G4D2L4D4L4D6L2R8"
1500 DATA"BR10BD40U12D6R2NE6F6BR
6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6D12M+8,+12U12BR
4R4ND12R4BR4D12R8U12BR6NR8D12R8B
R6U12D6R2NF6E6BR6D2F4ND6E4NU2"
1510 REM LOUISIANA
1520 DATA"BR28BD10R40F4D2F4D2G4L
G8D6R26D4G2D2F4L10G2F2R8G4F4DL8H
6L4D6L8H4G4L2H2L2H6LBH2L8U6E2U6E
6U2H6U16
1530 DATA"BR10BD40NU12R6BR6U12R8
D12NL7BR6NU12R8NU12BR6NU12BR6R6U
6L6U6R6BR6D12BR6U12R8D6NL8D6BR6U
12M+8,+12U12BR6ND12R8D6NL8D6"
1540 REM MASSACHUSETTS
1550 DATA"BR24BD20R50E4R2E4R8F6D
4G6L4D4F8R2D6R10E2U6H4U4R6F4D16M
-22,+8U6L4G6L6H10U4L28D4L4U4L18H
2M+8,-22"
1560 DATA"BR8BD40U12R4ND12R4D12B
R4U12R4D6NL4D6BR4R4U6L4U6R4BR4NR
4D6R4D6NL4BR4U12R4D6NL4D6BR4NR4U
12R4BR4D12U6R4U6D12BR4NU12R4NU12
BR4R4U6L4U6R4B12BR4NR2U6NR2U6R2
BR4R2ND12R2BR4R2ND12R2BR4NR4D6R4
D6L4"
1570 REM MARYLAND
1580 DATA"BR24BD20R70D24R12D8L4D
2L10H6U4H6U8E4U2L8D2G6D8F6D4L6H1
0U6H2L4H2U4L6G2L6U4L2G6L6U8"
1590 DATA"BR6BD40U12R6ND12R6D12B
R6U12R8D6NL8D6BR6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR
4BU12D2F4ND6E4U2BR6D12R6BR6U12R8
D6NL8D6L8U12M-6,+12U12L10U2H6U12
2R8U12L10"
1600 REM MAINE
1610 DATA"BR34BD36ND30R4E4U4E2M+
-20E4R6F6R8F6D20R4F2D6R4F4G6L8
G4L6G2L6G4L10G8H4"

```



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Thal Can -
Supply power for the 101 and
104 are Radio Shack, Star,
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Supply power for the interfaces are Epson, Seikosha, Panasonic, Silver Reed and NEC. If your printer cannot supply power to the interface you can order your interface with the "P" option or you can supply your own AC adapter. We recommend the Radio Shack 273-1431 AC adapter with a 274-328 connector adapter.

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U12D6L8U6D12BL8U12R4L8BL6BD12H6L
 2R8U6L8D12BL6U12L8D12NR8BL6NU12M
 -8, -12D12"
 1810 REM N DAKOTA
 1820 DATA"BR26BD18NR68D38R74U12H
 2U6H2U6H2U6"
 1830 DATA"BR20BD50R2NU12R8U12NL1
 0BR6ND12R8D6NL8D6BR6U12D6R2NF6E6
 BR6D12R8U12NL8BR4R4ND12R4B8R4ND12
 R8D6NL8D6BL8U12BL6U12D6L8U6D12BL8U
 12R4L88L6B12H6L2R8U6L8D12BL6U12
 L8D12NR8BL6NU12M-8, -12D12"
 1840 REM NE8RASKA
 1850 DATA"BR22BD18NR62D20R20D14R
 60U8H2U6H2U6H6L4H4"
 1860 DATA"BR8BD40U12M+8, +12U12BR
 6NR8DNR8D6R8BR4R2NU12R8U6NL8U6N
 L108R6ND12R8D6L8R2F6BR6U12R8D6NL
 8D6BR6R6U6L6U6R6BR6D12U6R2NE6F6B
 R6U12R8D6NL8D6"
 1870 REM NEVADA
 1880 DATA"BR36BD12R42D44L4G4D4H3
 4U18"
 1890 DATA"BR18BD40U12M+8, +12NU12
 BR6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6D8F4E4U8BR6ND1
 2R8D6NL8D68R4R4NU12R8U12NL10BR6N
 D12R8D6NL8D6"
 1900 REM NEW HAMPSHIRE
 1910 DATA"BR40BD68R28E4R2E4R4E2U
 4H4U2H4U2L2G4L4H2L4D4G2D12L4G4D
 6G6D4G2D4G2D6G2D6F2"
 1920 DATA"BR34BD32U12M+8, +12NU12
 BR6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6D12R8U12R8U12
 BD18BL72D12U6R6U6D12BR6U12R6D6NL
 6068R6U12R6ND12R6D12BR6U12R8D6NL
 8BF6R6U6L6U6R6BR6D12U6R6U6D12BR6
 NU12R8U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6NR6U6NR6U
 6R6"
 1930 REM NEW JERSEY
 1940 DATA"8R56BD4M+20, +10D8G6D2F
 4R2F4M-8, +24G4L4U6L8H8L2H4U4E6R2
 E2U2H6U8R2U8E6"
 1950 DATA"BR36BD32U12M+8, +12NU12
 8R6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6D12R8NU12R8U12
 BD18BL6R2L8R4D12L4B14NR8U6NR8U6R
 8R86ND12R8D6L8R2F6BR6R8U6L8U6R8B
 R6NR8D6NR8D6R8BR68U12D4F4ND4E4U4
 "
 1960 REM NEW MEXICO
 1970 DATA"8R36BD14R54D40L44D8L10
 U48"
 1980 DATA"BR36BD32U12M+8, +12NU12
 BR6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6D12R8NU12R8U12
 BD18BL62ND12R8D12R8D12BR6NR8U6N
 R8U6R8BR4F6NG6NF6E6BR6ND12BR6NR8
 D12R8R6NU12R8U12L8"
 1990 REM NEW YORK
 2000 DATA"BR788D4R24D16L2D12R2D1
 8L2D10G4L4M-22, -9H6L50U6E6R2E4U2
 R4U2R10D2R16U2E4U2H4E10R4E2R48D6
 0BR22E2R4E2R8D6L8G2L8U4
 2010 DATA"BR36BD32U12M+8, +12NU12
 8R6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6D12R8NU12R8U12
 BD18BL46D4F4ND4E4U4BR6ND12R8D12N
 L8BR6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6U12D6R2NE6F
 6"
 2020 REM OHIO
 2030 DATA"BR928D14D26G4D2G4D2L4G
 2D4L4G2D2L4H6L2G2L6G2L4H6L4H4U32
 R4E4R4F8R16E4R4E4R4E2R6"
 2040 DATA"BR36BD4112R8U12R8D12L8
 U12D6R8U6D12BR6NU12BR6U12R8D12L8
 "
 2050 REM OKLAHOMA

2060 DATA"BR96BD24D28L10H2L2G2L4
 H2L4H4L6G2L4H2L8H2U16L24U6R78"
 2070 DATA"BR6BD40U12R8D12NL8BR6U
 12D6R2NE6F6BR6NU12R4BR6U12R8D6NL
 8D6BR6U12D6R8U6D12BR6NR8U12R8D12
 BR6U12R6ND12R6D12BR6U12R8D6NL8D6
 "
 2080 REM OREGON
 2090 DATA"BR106BD14NH4M-6, +14F6D
 28L80H4U8E4U34R14F2D6F2R12M+20, -
 8R8E2R6E2R6"
 2100 DATA"BR20BD40U12R8D12NL8BR6
 U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6NR8U6NR8U6R8BR6N
 R8D12R8U6NL2D6BR6NR8U12R8012BR6U
 12M+8, +12U12"
 2110 REM PENNSYLVANIA
 2120 DATA"BR20BD18E6R2D4R70F10D2
 G4D2G4F8D4G6L4G4L74U40
 2130 DATA"BR4BD40U12R6D6NL8D6BR6
 4NR6U6NR6U6R6BR4ND12M+6, +12U12BR
 4ND12M+6, +12U12BR4R4D6R4D6NL4BR
 8U6H4NU2F4E4U2BR4D12R4B8R4BU12D8F
 4E4U8BR4ND12R6D6NL6D6BR4U12M+6, +
 12U12BR4D12BR4U12R6D6NL6D6"
 2140 REM RHODE ISLAND
 2150 DATA"BR46BD20ND30R26D8R2D6F
 4R2F4D8G2L6U8H4L8D12L6G2L4G2L4U4
 BR22U8R4D8L4"
 2160 DATA"BR24BD32U12R8D6L8R2F6B
 R6U12D6R8U6D12BR6U12R8D12NL8BR6R
 2NU12R8U12NL10BR6NR8D6NR8D6R8BD1
 8BL70NU12BR6R8U6L8U6R8BR6D12R8BR
 6U12R8D6NL8D6BR8U12M+8, +12U12BR6
 R2ND12R8D12L10"
 2170 REM S CAROLINA
 2180 DATA"BR36BD18E4R4E2R18F4R14
 F12G12D2G8L2G4L4H4U2H4U2H8L2H8L4
 H2L4U2E4R2"
 2190 DATA"BR12BD50NR8U12R8BR6ND1
 R8D6NL806R6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6U12
 R8D12NL88R6NU12R6BR6NU128R6U12M+
 8, +12U12BR6ND12R8D6NL8D6B8U188L18
 U12D6L8U6D128L8U12R4L88L6D12L8U1
 2BL6D12L8U12NR8BL6L8D6R8D6L8"
 2200 REM S DAKOTA
 2210 DATA"BR26BD12NR68D38R64F4R2
 F6U4H2U4E2U4H2U12H2U6H6E2"
 2220 DATA"BR208050R2NU12R8U12NL1
 0BR6ND12R8D6NL8D6BR6U12D6R2NF6E6
 BR6D12R8U12NL88R4R4ND12R4B8R4ND12
 R8D6NL8D68U12BL8U12D6L8U6D128L8U
 12R4L8BL6D12L8U12BL6D12L8U12NR8B
 L6L8D6R8D6L8"
 2230 REM TENNESSEE
 2240 DATA"BR26BD28R90G6L2G4L8G4L
 2G6L66U4E2U6E4U4"
 2250 DATA"8R10BD40U12L4R8BR4NR6D
 6NR6D6R6BR6U12M+8, +12NU12BR6U12M
 +8, +12U12B8R6NR6D6NR6D6R8R6R6U6L
 6U6R68R6NR6D6R6D6NL6BR6NR6U6NR6U
 6R68R6NR6D6NR6D6R6"
 2260 REM TEXAS
 2270 DATA"BR508D4R12D14R4F2R4F6R
 8E2R4F2R6F2D8F2D6G4L4G6L4G4D8L4H
 4L6H6L2H4L2H6L4G6L2H2L4H10U2H4R2
 8U30R4"
 2280 DATA"BR28BD40U12L4R8BR4NR6D
 6NR6D6R6BR6E6NH6NE6F68R6U12R8D6N
 L8D6BR6R8U6L8U6R8"
 2290 REM UTAH
 2300 DATA"BR12BD50NR8U12R8D6L8R2F6
 U50"
 2310 DATA"BR32BD40NU12R8U12R8BR6R4
 ND12R4B8R6ND12R8D6NL8D6BR6U12D6R8

U6D12"
 2320 REM VIRGINIA
 2330 DATA"BR24BD48R88U4H4L2H4U4H
 2M-12, -4U4H4L2H4L8G4L2G12L6G4L6H
 4L4G6D2G10R10"
 2340 DATA"BR18BD28D8F4E4U8BR6D12
 BR6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6NR8U12R8D6NL
 2D6BR6U12BR6ND12M+8, +12U12BR6D12
 BR6U12R8D6NL8D6"
 2350 REM VERMONT
 2360 DATA"BR88BD4D4G2D12L4G4D6G6
 D4G2D4G2D6G2D6L22U22L4U4E2U18M+6
 , -14R38"
 2370 DATA"BR12BD28D8F4E4U8BR6NR8
 D6NR8D6R6BR6U12R8D6L8R2F6BR6U12R
 6ND12R6D12BR6NR8U12R8D12BR6U12M+
 8, +12U12BR4R4ND12R4"
 2380 REM WASHINGTON
 2390 DATA"BR36BD14R62D36L16M-40,
 +6H2U4L8H2M-6, -20H6U2R8F4R4U2H2U
 2H4R6"
 2400 DATA"BR6BD28D12R6NU12R6U128
 R4ND12R6D6NL6D6BR4R4U6L4U6R4B8R4D
 12U6R6U6D12BR6NU12BR6U12M+8, +12N
 U12BR4R8U12R8BD6NL2D6BR4B8U12R4N
 D12R4B8R4D12R6U12NL6BR4ND12M+8, +1
 2U12"
 2410 REM WISCONSIN
 2420 DATA"BR42BD62R42U12E2U6E2U4
 E2U4E2U4L2M-8, +12L2U8R2U6H4M-22,
 -6L6U4L4D2L8D7G2L2G6D10F10D6F2D6
 F4"
 2430 DATA"BR8BD28D12R6NU12R6U12B
 R6D12BR6R6U6L6U6R6BR6NR6D12R6BR6
 NR8U12R8D12BR6U12M+8, +12U12BR6NR
 6D6R6D6NL6BR6U128R6ND12M+8, +12U1
 2U12"
 2440 REM WEST V1RG1NIA
 2450 DATA"BR568D10D10R18D8R4E6R4
 E2R6F4D4L6D2G4D2G6L4M-8, +12F2D4G
 2L4G2L14H2L4H4L4H4L2H2U4H2U4E4U2
 E4U2E6J2E6U2E4U2E404"
 2460 DATA"8R18803D8F4E4U8BR6D12
 BR6U12R8D6L8R2F68R6NR8U12R8BD6NL
 2D6BR6U128R6ND12M+8, +12U128R6D12
 BR6U12R8D6NL8D6B8U188L66NU12R6NU1
 2R6U128R6NR8D6NR8D6R8R8R6R8U6L8U6
 R8R8R4R4ND12R4"
 2470 REM WYOMING
 2480 DATA"BR348018R56D36L56U368F
 8F4R2U6L2G2"
 2490 DATA"8R12BD28D12R6NU12R6U12
 BR6D4F4D4E4U4BR6D12R8U12NL8BR6N
 D12R6ND12R6ND12BR6D128R6U12M+8, +
 12U12BR6NR8D12R8U6L2"
 2500 CLS0:FOR1=1TO50:TEM\$=P\$(1,1
):P\$(1,1)-P\$(1,2):P\$(1,2)-TEM\$:N
 EXT

2510 GDT095
 2520 CLS:PRINT@101,"YOU TRIED"NC
 +NW"TIMES &":PRINT@165,"ANSWERED"
 "NC"CORRECTLY"
 2530 PRINT@229,"WHILE DOING"NW"WW
 RONG."
 2540 NQ-NC+NW:IF NQ-0THEN NQ-1
 2550 MS-INT(NC/NQ*100)
 2560 PRINT@293."YOUR SCORE IS"MS
 "%."
 2570 PRINT@357,"ANOTHER TRY (Y/N
 /C) ?";
 2580 A\$=INKEY\$:IF A\$="1" THEN RUN
 2590 IF X\$="N" THEN CLS:END
 2600 IF X\$="C" THEN 260
 2610 GOTO2580

Reviews

Game

CoCo 3

Zenix

Zenix is a machine-language, shoot-'em-up space game written for the CoCo 3. It requires one joystick and a 35- or 40-track disk drive and supports RGB and composite monitors. Obviously the color and detail are better on an RGB monitor.



Zenix is a fast-paced arcade game that contains smooth and colorful Hi-Res graphics along with exciting sound effects. The object of the game is to guide your plutonium plasma laser-equipped space ship to the planet Zenix to deliver a single crucial blast and destroy the planet. This destruction is necessary because the Zenians have evolved into a race of semi-intelligent insectoids that have been at war with other peace-loving planets in the universe. You get only one chance to destroy Zenix if you can successfully defend yourself against the Zenian war ships.

As the game begins, your ship is attacked by swarms of insect-like enemy crafts. You must kill them all before advancing to the next level. The crafts' colors are important. Purple crafts contain extra fuel your ship can use. When a craft is shot, it changes color. You must collide with them after the color change to increase your fuel capacity. Sometimes they even contain extra weapons that you can use. A fuel gauge is shown at the bottom of the screen so you can keep track of your status. Each time your ship is hit by one of the enemy ships the gauge will show less fuel. You die when the fuel gauge is empty. If you accidentally shoot the enemy ship after it has already changed to a solid color it will explode. You get extra points, but no extra fuel or weapons.

Different colored enemy crafts are worth various points, added fuel or weapons. You will quickly learn what colors provide the

most benefit. After the successful completion of every fourth level a bonus round is awarded. There are 32 levels of increasing difficulty in *Zenix*. The Zenians also shoot different colored bullets at you. Some bullets are heat seeking while others are armor piercing. The tough part is learning to dodge enemy ships and their bullets while, at the same time, shooting and colliding with them at just the right moment. A pause mode allows you to catch your breath and gather your wits. High scores are added to the game disk as a reminder of outstanding game performance. Don't be disappointed if you don't catch Jeremy Spiller.

Zenix is copy protected but a backup of the original is possible. The backup can be used only in conjunction with the original disk. You can get a replacement disk for a nominal fee. *Zenix* is accompanied by a five-page instruction booklet that explains the backup procedure as well as game strategy and scoring. *Zenix* is the best arcade game I've seen for the CoCo 3. I was especially impressed with the quality of the graphics, sound effects and smoothness of operation. This is one game you definitely want in your CoCo 3 library. *Zenix* is available from the producer, GOSUB Software, as well as Gimmesoft and Eversoft Games, Ltd.

(GOSUB Software, P.O. Box 1094, Townsend, MA 01469; \$29.95)

— Robert Gray

Utility

CoCo 1, 2 & 3

Baby BASIC

About a year ago, I wrote a review of DanoSoft's *Big BASIC*. It is a marvelous product that allows the user to write literally dozens of BASIC programs and load them into memory simultaneously. It is a very useful and versatile programming utility and quite inexpensive. I often wondered how it is possible to load several programs into memory at the same time—and why a similar system had not been developed for the CoCo 2 in the heyday of 64K. In a machine with twice that capability, 28K of user memory didn't seem fair.

I occasionally dabble in stage magic. I know it isn't often that a good conjurer reveals his best secrets, but sometimes he gives his students a glimpse of the inner

workings of a simpler form of his most popular tricks. Bill Daniels of DanoSoft is a magician of the Color Computer. With his latest product, *Baby BASIC*, he lets us in on a couple of cute tricks.

Baby BASIC will not be the hit of the next RAINBOWfest, nor will it be seen on the cover of next month's RAINBOW. *Baby BASIC* just isn't that sort of a product. It is difficult to say what kind of product this is. It might be called an educational utility. You won't need it unless you write BASIC programs. Some programming capability is required to use it.

Baby BASIC releases that unused RAM. About fifty 8K blocks in a 512K CoCo 3 (10 blocks in a 128K machine) are available for use. That is roughly 80K to over 400K of user-accessible RAM. It teaches you how to free up to 9.5K in a CoCo 2 that you can use for BASIC programs. It also teaches you efficient, modular, structured programming —unless you already practice that style of programming. If your interest is in more RAM for ready-made games, *Big BASIC* is your best buy. The purchase of *Baby BASIC*, however, allows you to write some great games. For example, with *Baby BASIC* it is possible to create an Adventure game that uses 8K for each of four dozen levels.

Baby BASIC uses a handful of peeks and pokes to achieve the amazing. Even though the program is written entirely in BASIC, it accomplishes incredible feats. The program consists of seven subroutines. The first subroutine calls the program segments in high memory. The second and third subroutines return control and store the high-memory blocks. The fourth switches between blocks of memory. The fifth and sixth subroutines perform housekeeping functions. And the seventh releases that 9.5K in the CoCo 2. Subroutine 7, strictly a CoCo 2 routine, is used independently of the rest. The three pages of 80-column printed listing may be confusing at first, but Bill Daniels' documentation and comments in the program itself will guide you through it. I had a program calling a subroutine in high memory in about a half an hour on my first try.

I find it useful to break the program up into smaller segments. Subroutines 1 and 4 should stay by themselves. Subroutines 2 and 3, along with 5 and 6, can be paired together and stored on the disk. These pairings give you a skeleton around which to build your larger program.

I also find it advantageous to delete much of the documentation from my frame-

work routines to keep them small. Once their functions are understood, they can be kept as black-box routines that use secrets to perform their magic. No longer is it necessary to understand them in depth. Since you may never need all six of the CoCo 3 routines in a single program, it is beneficial to break them up as needed.

Baby BASIC is not for baby programmers. I am a programmer whose professional experience is on larger computers used by an insurance company. I find this a challenging package to work with. It teaches efficiency while also instructing the user in the finer points of CoCo architecture. Even if you already have *Big BASIC*, you might want to try *Baby BASIC* as a learning tool.

(Danosoft, P.O. Box 124, Station A, Mississauga, ON L5A 2Z7, Canada; 416-897-0121; \$8.95, \$10.50 Cdn., plus \$2.50 S/H)

— Fred Toon

Game

CoCo 3

Mind-Roll

Mind-Roll is a 3-D game of speed and dexterity for your 64K CoCo 2 or CoCo 3. The game comes as a plug-in cartridge that works either directly in the cartridge slot on your CoCo, or plugged into a Multi-Pak Interface. You will see better color and graphics if you have a CoCo 3 and an RGB monitor than with a CoCo 2 and a color composite monitor. A joystick is optional, but I recommend one if the game is to be played to its full potential.

Mind-Roll challenges you to move an 8-ball through a series of twisting, complicated planes. Throughout this maze you will encounter electric oceans, invisible walls, and all sorts of other treasures that serve to increase your score. You must move your ball carefully over the tricky, frequently narrowing paths to avoid falling into infinity. With each successfully completed plane, a bonus round is awarded. You are then able to select which plane you want to pursue. In this game, time is your worst enemy. The amount of time remaining is shown in the upper right corner of the screen.

You must also be aware of symbols that appear on the screen during play. Some of these symbols add to your score as they are captured, and some will kill you. You will not immediately know which symbols are which, but after a few rounds it will be obvious which to capture and which to avoid. The game has 10 planes, each more difficult than the one before.

Mind-Roll is a game of good, clean fun that is both challenging and interesting. The sound effects are lively and the graphics are good. These features, however, are not comparable to the quality of previous CoCo 3 programs.

(Epyx, distributed by Tandy Corporation, 1700 One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, TX 76102; Available in Radio Shack stores nationwide, Cat. No. 26-3100, \$34.95)

—Jerry Semones

Telecommunications

CoCo 3

CEBBS 2.1

I reviewed *CEBBS*, the CoCo Electronic Bulletin Board System, in the November 1989 issue of *TiTE RAINBOW*. Since then many improvements and additions have been made to the program, and the result is *CEBBS 2.1*. For those who are unfamiliar with the original *CEBBS* and do not have access to the earlier review, here is a brief synopsis of *CEBBS*.

CEBBS is a collection of programs, in both BASIC and machine language, that allows CoCo 3 owners to run and maintain a bulletin board system. To use *CEBBS* you need an RS-232 Pak and a Multi-Pak Interface (or Y-cable), an auto-answer modem with a DTR (Data Terminal Ready) lead, and at least one disk drive. If your CoCo has 512K, using a RAM disk will greatly increase performance. As with any BBS, disk storage is at a premium, which makes extra disk drives and/or a hard drive helpful. Combine this hardware with the *CEBBS* system, and you have an excellent, powerful and flexible BBS.

CEBBS programs are written in BASIC, with four exceptions. The driver that takes care of I/O via the modem is an excellent piece of machine-language programming, as is the routine responsible for the file-transfer features. The software clock driver and some patches to the operating system are also written in machine language.

CEBBS is designed to be easy for the SysOp to use and still remain powerful and flexible. The SysOp sets up the BBS as desired through the use of menus. These menus display the desired text and allow access to the various functions the board makes available. The functions supported by the package include chat, text file display, movement between menus, view time and date, show user's status, list users, change user parameters (such as password,

upper/lowercase, etc.), protected exit to BASIC (allows remote operation by the SysOp), and logging off the system. There is also a function to call the message base. The number of different message sections (forums) available is limited only by disk space. Finally, there is a function to allow file transfers, as described below.

The system includes easy-to-use maintenance utilities for editing the message base, user log, the quotes of the day, and the file descriptions. These programs make the SysOp's job a great deal easier and less time-consuming.

In short, *CEBBS* is a full-featured, flexible, user-friendly BBS. And now, with the Version 2.1 update, it is even better. While the changes and improvements to the board are numerous, several are particularly outstanding. It is now possible to send ANSI escape sequences (like those used on some PC BBSs) to enable color, cursor, and attribute control. Not only are these sequences sent to the user's system, they are performed on the local CoCo 3 screen! You can move the cursor up, down, left, or right a specified number of lines or columns to a particular screen location. You can also clear text from the cursor to the start or end of the screen. Underlining can be turned on or off, as can blinking. The foreground and background colors can be changed. Many

CEBBS is a full-featured, flexible, user-friendly BBS. And now, with the Version 2.1 update, it is even better.

other cursor-control sequences are provided. ANSI graphics are really fun and make the package more colorful and exciting.

The upload and download functions have been greatly expanded. They now feature Xmodem and Ymodem (Checksum or CRC) and ASCII file transfers. Getting around in the file transfer section and finding desired files has also been improved, including provision for keyword searches. The file-

transfer section is now full-featured and quite sophisticated.

CEBBS now supports XON/XOFF (CTRL-S and CTRL-Q) flow control at any time, which allows users to pause and then resume output. The message section has also been improved to give users post-only or read-only access to a message base.

The disk comes with four programs to be used by those purchasing *CEBBS 2.1* as an upgrade to an earlier *CEBBS* system. These files will change the old user log, message base, quotes, and download descriptions files for compatibility with the new format.

Other changes throughout the system make this great BBS package even better. Many of these changes are the direct result of user suggestions. Kevin Berner, the program's author, has his finger on the pulse of the owners and users of *CEBBS*, and is receptive to their ideas. Almost all of the complaints from my first review have been addressed. Kevin has shown that he plans to continue his support of and improvements to *CEBBS*. When I spoke with him recently, he said he has developed a games pack for use with the system. It contains several games and other programs, such as a voting booth.

If you are interested in starting a BBS using your CoCo 3, or have an earlier

version of *CEBBS*, you should seriously consider *CEBBS 2.1*. Its power, flexibility and support put it in a class by itself.

(KB Enterprises, 435 Brightwaters Drive, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931; 407-799-3253; \$49.95, or \$8.95 to upgrade from an earlier version of CEBBS, plus \$3 S/H)

— Michael Toeple

Game

CoCo 3

Rampage

While many video games put you in control of a very sophisticated piece of equipment designed to battle evil foes, *Rampage* puts you on the other side of the fray. In this game, a Tandy ROM Pak by Activision, you are the ugly monster, and you are the one being shot. Soldiers, tanks and helicopters all blast away while you storm through city after city pulverizing buildings with your massive fists. Along the way you can eat nearly everything in sight (monsters have appetites, too, you know), including many different items found in punched-out walls. Some of the items

increase your energy while others have the opposite effect. It takes some practice before you can tell which ones do which.



Getting started with *Rampage* is quick and easy. The program asks whether or not you have an RGB monitor and how many people are playing (up to three can compete using two joysticks and the keyboard). Each player is allowed to choose which of the three different monsters he wants to control. Once that is out of the way, the game begins.

Each city consists of one screen containing three to six buildings. Once you succeed in demolishing each building, a news flash appears on the screen announcing your next target. There are over 100 cities to wreck, many of which can be smashed



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more than once. This should keep even the most devastating monsters busy for hours.

Rampage is a very faithful adaptation of the arcade game of the same name. The graphics and sound effects are quite satisfactory, and the feel of the game is accurately captured for the small screen. As with many of the current generation of multiplayer arcade games, *Rampage* allows additional players to jump in while the game is in progress. Although in the arcade version this feature is obviously a fiendish plot designed to solicit more quarters, I have always liked this feature, and it works well in the CoCo version.

Several characteristics of *Rampage* are less than exciting. First among these is that the sluggish nature of the arcade game is re-created in the CoCo version. The monsters move, punch and jump at an annoyingly slow pace. Helicopters and tanks crawl across the screen. Each city occupies a single screen, which makes the display seem stationary. I see no discernable difference between one city and the next. This means that your hand-eye coordination can be left in your hip pocket. A slow-paced game that requires careful thought and strategy is fine. Unfortunately, *Rampage* has no such requirement. The only thought required is trying to decide what to eat and

what not to eat as you are punching at walls.

Game control is another problem. Although the joysticks respond adequately, the game does not work with standard joysticks. Only the deluxe model can be used with the game. The keyboard controls respond well, but there is little rationale for which keys are used. The game's design is not an efficient one. To further complicate the situation, the instruction manual is not correct.

A game that lacks speed and strategy can still survive if it has personality or intrigue. The universe being saved from an evil empire. A kidnapped king rescued from the hands of kung fu masters. Something. Anything. The *Rampage* manual asks, "What's the point?" The answer is that the purpose of all this wanton destruction is to get points. For some people that may be enough. After playing the game, however, I felt as though I had accomplished nothing except having wasted some time.

I worried that maybe I had just gotten old, so I coerced my 8-year-old video game-master son to join me for a few games. He has on occasion been known to sink quite a pocketful of quarters into the arcade version of *Rampage*. He was bored after two games. Instead, he went to his room and watched his plants grow. I was unable to

talk him into playing another game. I think this is a sufficient summary of the program.

(Activision, dist. by Tandy Corporation, 1700 One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, TX 76102; available in Radio Shack stores nationwide, Cat. No. 26-3174; \$34.95)

— Jim K. Issel

Communications

OS-9 Level II

The Wiz

One of the most popular types of software is the communications or terminal program. While there have been numerous terminal programs written for the CoCo under Disk BASIC, there have been few for OS-9. In fact, most of the OS-9 terminal packages are in the public domain, and I must admit that some of the more recent ones are quite good.

One of the first commercial programs written for OS-9 Level II, and which makes use of the windowing environment, is *The Wiz*. The program, written by William Brady and distributed by Frank Hogg Laboratories, was first available soon after Tandy introduced OS-9 Level II.

Novices Niche

Utility

4K

Peeking at 135

by Keiran Kenny

When you press a key on the keyboard, the ASCII (or CHR\$) value of that key is poked into memory position 135 and remains there until you press another key. Try this shorbie:

```
10 PRINT CHR$(PEEK(135));:GOTO10
```

A simple press on a key will have CoCo printing that key repeatedly until you press another key.

PEEK(135) can be substituted for an INKEY\$ entry in programs where you do not want to pause the action while the program waits for a keypress. In this program, CHR\$(159) keeps flicking on

and off. While it is running, press a key (1-9) to GOSUB 100 (or whatever) and return without noticeably delaying the execution of the program. The entry POKE(135),0 in Line 50 restores its normal value to memory position 135. Otherwise Line 40 keeps repeating until you press another key.

I used PEEK(135) in my programs *Peekasso Prints* (Jan. '87) and *Mirror Image* (Oct. '87). In these programs, a single keypress sets a graphics trace moving in a chosen direction. It will continue moving in that direction until you press another key to stop or change direction.

The Listing: PEEK135

```
0 'COPYRIGHT 1990 FALSOFT, INC.  
1 'PEEK(135)' by Keiran Kenny,  
Sydney, 1988.  
10 CLS  
20 PRINT@144,CHR$(159)  
30 1FPEEK(135)>48ANDPEEK(135)<58  
THENP=PEEK(135)-48:PRINT@204,"SU  
B. ":";ELSE60  
40 ONP GOSUB100,200,300,400,500,  
600,700,800,900  
50 POKE135,0  
60 PRINT@144,CHR$(143)  
70 GOTO20  
100 PRINT"100":RETURN  
200 PRINT"200":RETURN  
300 PRINT"300":RETURN  
400 PRINT"400":RETURN  
500 PRINT"500":RETURN  
600 PRINT"600":RETURN  
700 PRINT"700":RETURN  
800 PRINT"800":RETURN  
900 PRINT"900":RETURN
```

To use *The Wiz*, you need a 512K CoCo 3, OS-9 Level II with BASIC09 and an RS-232 Pak or other 6551 ACIA hardware. If you use the RS-232 Pak with a Multi-Pak Interface, you should have the PAL upgrade.

Unlike most other terminal programs, installation of *The Wiz* is not straightforward. The program comes with its own device driver and descriptor that optimize the CoCo operating as a terminal. This necessitates the creation of a new boot disk. For an OS-9 hacker this is no big deal, but I know many people who don't like to fool around with making a new boot disk, especially with the so-called boot problems. I strongly recommend the program *Ez-Gen* from Burke and Burke for any type of boot modifications (Note: *Ez-Gen* is not required for the installation of *The Wiz*'s device driver and descriptor.)

If you follow the OS-9 manual, you can prepare the new boot using *OS9Gen*. *Ez-Gen* simplifies the process. Using *Ez-Gen*, I added the driver and descriptor to my current boot disk. I kept the original Tandy 12 device descriptor and ACTAPAK device driver so I could continue to use other terminal software.

After rebooting the CoCo with the new boot disk, I moved *The Wiz*'s software modules to my current execution directory, /h0/APPL. The manual describes the various modules that must be in memory; but I won't get into all of that. I should note, however, that most of *The Wiz* is written in BASIC09; therefore, you will need to have run in memory.

Now, before anyone gets bent out of shape because *The Wiz* is written in BASIC, let me assure you that this is not a problem. There are several machine language modules that take care of the parts where speed is important. I have run *The Wiz* at 1200 baud with absolutely no problems. According to the author, it can be run at much higher speeds (up to 19200 baud; it has been successfully run at 4800 although data throughput tops out at approximately 1800 baud with no problems.)

So what are some of the features of *The Wiz*? There are many, but I've listed those I feel are most important:

- Autologging — uses a Tandy Model 100 approach
- Colors, fonts, boldface and proportional print are all configurable
- Xmodem and Kermit for file transfer (a public domain version of Kermit is provided and easily run from *The Wiz*)
- User definable BREAK key
- Conference mode
- Usage log
- Download to disk
- Redisplay of last 2048 characters received

- Dedicated device driver optimized for the CoCo 3 when operated as a terminal
- VT-52 emulation
- All standard handshaking modes are supported

As you can see, *The Wiz* is a full-featured terminal package that provides the average user with very good capability. With the autologging capability, you can customize *The Wiz* so it automatically logs onto a system such as CompuServe or Delphi. These customization files are kept in the /dd/COM directory and can easily be prepared with a text editor.

Earlier versions of *The Wiz* were provided with a program called NewHost, which generates the configuration file. According to the author, the configuration file is no longer provided. Having seen NewHost, however, I think it is a mistake not to include this program in the package and strongly encourage Frank Hogg Labs to do so with any future versions of *The Wiz*.

While reviewing *The Wiz*, I tested the program on several systems including CompuServe, a PC-operated bulletin board (TBBS), an IBM mainframe and an SCO Xenix system. Operation on all of these systems is smooth and free of problems with the exception of the Xenix system.

Because *The Wiz* supports VT-52 emulation, I set the Xenix system for this; however, I had very poor success, as indicated by all kinds of extraneous control characters on the screen. I have tried a number of CoCo terminal programs that claim to support VT-52 or VT-100 emulation; none of them have been successful. I suspect that this may ultimately be a problem with the CoCo. In any case, I would not recommend *The Wiz* for use with a UNTX/Xenix system. For all the other systems, however, operation is excellent.

I noted at the beginning of this review that *The Wiz* makes ample use of the OS-9 windowing system. The screen is divided into essentially three windows: a one-line window at the top of the screen is a status bar; another one-line window at the bottom of the screen is used for error messages, events and conference mode; and the main window in the middle (22 lines) is used for display with the system being contacted. As is appropriate, there are several overlay windows used as menu and dialog windows. While all of this may sound confusing, let me assure you that windowing gives *The Wiz* a professional appearance.

If you follow THE RATNBOW, you will note that *The Wiz* is on sale with a copy of *WizPro* included. *WizPro* is a shareware terminal package that has been available for quite awhile. While this may sound like a good deal, there is a problem — no

documentation is provided on paper or in electronic form. In other words, there are no manual or document files on the disk.

I noted this to Frank Hogg Labs, and they informed me that they simply provide the disk but do not support *WizPro*. They indicated that they will inform the author and are surprised that no documentation is available. The bottom line is that you get a second terminal program included with *The Wiz*, but it is essentially useless since documentation is not provided.

Overall, I am very impressed with *The Wiz*. It is easy-to-use, except for creating a new boot disk. The documentation is excellent as is the performance. Since the price has been lowered and *WizPro* has been included (for what it is worth), it is a pretty good deal.

(Frank Hogg Laboratory, 770 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203; 315-474-8225; \$59.95)

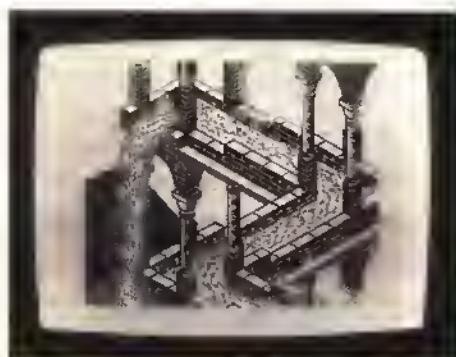
— Donald Dollberg

Game

CoCo 1, 2 & 3

Grafix Disk Package

One of the first things that interested me in the CoCo was its potential for excellent graphics. If you have been around the CoCo community for any time at all, you have noticed that there is a great deal of interest in the graphics capabilities of this fine little machine.



T&D Software is a company that has assembled a series of disk packages that contain a wealth of pictures to view on your 32K CoCo with a disk drive. There are three packages of 10 disks, each covering an array of subjects. Some of the subjects include clip art, space pictures, animals, cars, buildings, celebrities, cartoon characters and R-rated images.

I had a chance to preview the disks. And after looking at the first disk, I couldn't wait to see the next one. Set 1 contains all sorts of clip art sketches, space pictures and

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animals. Set 2 contains digitized photos of well-known celebrities like Brooke Shields and Johnny Carson. It also contains other graphics that show off your CoCo. For example, a waterfall that drives a water-wheel in a rather interesting way. Set 3 contains material of an adult theme. Each digitized picture is R-rated and shows beautiful women in various stages of undress.

Each disk package has its own viewing program, but you can use almost any that are compatible with MAC pictures. The disk also has a graphics editor called MACPAINT that can be used to edit the various pictures for your own use. A joystick is needed to run both the VIEW and MACPAINT programs. The program also supports printing to make hard copies of your favorite pictures.

I was impressed with the extreme diversity of the disk packages I received for this review. These packages do not contain plain and simple graphics. Instead, they are very detailed and colorful images that should satisfy even the highest degree of graphics fever.

(T&D Subscription Software, 2490 Miles Standish Dr., Holland, MI 49423; 616-399-9648; \$35 for each set)

—Jerry Semones

Game

CoCo 3

Firespire

Firespire is a one-player arcade Adventure game for the CoCo 3 that requires a disk drive and a joystick, preferably the self-centering type. For those not familiar with arcade Adventures, these games combine the quick reflexes needed in arcade games and the cunning, mental prowess required to navigate through a maze.



As a gnome named Tal Hilar, you are sent on a quest to find the Firespire, a gnome weapon lost during the fierce Troll

wars. Despite being armed with an energy-charged sword capable of disposing of any creature found in this world, it is not an easy task.

There are four distinct areas or worlds: the outer surface, halls and passages within monuments, rocks and pilings of the moat

***Firespire* is
a fun game that
will hold your
interest for
hours.**

and an underwater lair. Each area has special hazards of its own. Death birds dive at you on the outside, huge jellyfish-like creatures charge at you in the halls and passageways, and poisonous bubbles rise from the moat. Just the mere touch of any of these is fatal. Fortunately, you have three lives and one *continue*. A continue lets you continue the game from the point where you lost your last life. Your score reverts to zero, but you can go on with another three lives and see what lies beyond without having to start from the very beginning. A nice touch.

In your travels you find jewels, keys and icons that let you make super-jumps. The jewels and keys may be exchanged at your discretion for extra lives or continues. Three jewels may be traded for one extra life, while six jewels or one key gives you an additional continue.

Movement is accomplished by using the joystick, but you must stay on the platforms scattered throughout each screen. You may walk or jump from platform to platform; if you fall, you can steer your descent so that you land on another platform.

Keep in mind, however, that each area has creatures that try to impede your progress. These creatures can be killed by zapping them with your energy sword, which is activated by the joystick button. Should you miss a platform and fall to the bottom or if a creature touches you, one life is forfeited.

Each screen also has one or more windows — little white squares — that allow access to other areas. The problem is that only a few of these windows are entrances, and some need to be unlocked before passage to another area is possible. Since the only way to reach a window is to jump and fall into it, you lose many lives trying to determine which are entrances and which are not. It is advisable to map or keep track of the various windows. To get those easily frustrated persons started, the middle window on the second screen to the right leads to the inside of a monument.

The game comes with a four-page set of instructions that adequately covers all you need to know for survival. The graphics screens are not very detailed but are colorful, clear and crisp. By pressing the space bar, you get a status report screen that shows your current power, score, remaining lives, jumping ability, inventory and location. It can also be used as a pause feature or as a quick escape when you are about to be done in by those nasty creatures that never leave you in peace. Since the game is not timed, you can leisurely explore and map out each area as you travel through it.

There is one minor negative point — when you move from one screen to the next, the screen goes blank and you must wait a few seconds before the next screen appears. While this may be a bit annoying to the seasoned arcade player, the adventurer may welcome the chance to catch his breath. If you have a 512K CoCo, however, you can backup the disk to a RAM disk that speeds up the game.

All in all, *Firespire* is a fun game that will hold your interest for hours.

(SPORTSware, 1251 South Reynolds Road, Suite 414, Toledo, OH 43615; 419-389-1515; \$21, introductory price)

— George Aftamonow

Game

CoCo 3

Sprite-BASIC

According to the dictionary a sprite is a fairy, ghost or goblin; an apparition that moves freely around and through solid objects. The computer world defines a sprite as a graphics object that can freely move around the screen without affecting the background picture. We've all seen sprites in games such as *PacMan*. Those pesky little ghosts and *PacMan* himself are sprites.

Wouldn't it be great to create sprites for your program? Wouldn't it be even greater

to have them move smoothly without flickering? And wouldn't it be amazing to be able to do this from BASIC without having to study a manual as thick as the local phone directory? If you answered yes to any of these questions then fire up the CoCo 3 and get ready because here comes *Sprite-BASIC* from Supersoft, Inc.

Sprite-BASIC does its magic on HSCREEN2 of any CoCo 3. HSCREEN2 was selected because it is the only Hi-Res screen that allows the use of all 16 palettes at once. You may choose your 16 colors from the 64 that are available. Create any graphics object you choose, up to 30 pixels by 20 pixels and, presto, a sprite is born. And you can use animated sprites if you build the background using *CoCo Max III* and palette switching.

Creation of the sprite is limited only by your imagination and is as easy as point and shoot. Or in this case, point and click. All you need is a mouse or joystick, a Hi-Res interface and your disk drive. You are then ready to create your first sprite.

To choose the color palettes, click on Colors on the menu bar. For convenience, all 64 colors are displayed on the screen at once. This is much easier than scrolling through all 64 colors to find the right one.

When you click on Sprites a sub-menu

will drop down. Next click on Edit. Now you must decide the size of your sprite. It can be any size up to 30 by 20 pixels. Once your choice is made, you are ready to



create. A grid appears and you can begin creating your sprite one pixel at a time. The grid is an option that I feel makes it much easier to see what is happening. It is an oversized version of your sprite with the limits of each pixel clearly shown. A normal size version of the sprite is simultaneously shown in the upper left corner of the screen. Any or all of the 16 palettes can be used for your sprite — you select another color with a simple point and click.

When your artwork is finished simply click on Save and name your sprite. Your work is saved to disk. If you want to change

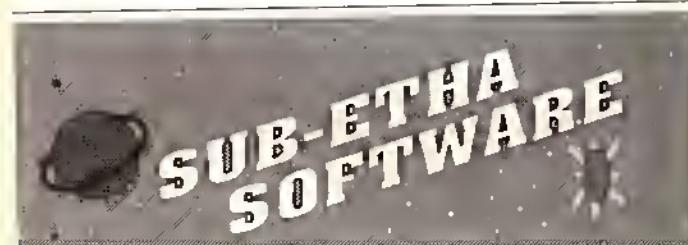
the sprite, simply click on Load and the sprite is loaded from disk for editing.

Now is when the real fun begins. Once you have created and saved your sprites, you are ready to compile up to nine of them for use in your own programs.

To enter the compiler either click on Compiler from the sprite editor or LOADM "COMPILER" from BASTC. Select the sprites you want to use in your program. If you've forgotten their names, use the DIR command. Insert a disk and press ENTER. Your file is compiled. There are now 18 new, easily understood and remembered commands at your disposal for moving the sprites around your graphics display.

These new commands offer a myriad of possible uses. With them you can turn any compiled sprite on or off; move it up, down, left, right, or at angles; change horizontal and vertical speed; stop them; move them to new locations; pass them in front of or behind other objects; and even tell when they collide.

Did I mention the RAM disk? I didn't? Sorry! If you have ST2K and Disk BASIC 2.1, the sprite editor automatically installs a RAM disk for your use. To turn on the RAM disk click on Ramdisk at the main screen. The RAM disk is also available from *Sprite-BASIC*.



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Not a new version of ADOS-3 but a new product that shares space with ADOS-3 in a 16K EPROM. Arrow-key selection of files to execute LOAD, COPY, KILL or SCAN. The BACKUP command is doubled in speed for full disks, proportionately faster for partly full disks (BACKUPS to or from the RAMdisk typically take 5 to 20 sec). BACKUP-with-formal • Wild-card COPY and KILL, with optional prompting for individual files • Date (or date/time with hardware clock) displayed for files in the directory, printed on LLISTings • DATES function • Key repeat • Block move/copy of BASIC program lines • Text screen printer dump • Auto-reboot of a BASIC program or the DOS command • Parallel printing • Read/write/format 35/40 tracks on 80-track drives • Supports 3 double-sided drives plus 2 RAMdrives • Allows different numbers of tracks on different drives • Shares the excellent compatibility with commercial software. For 128K CoCo 3 with ADOS-3 (RAMdisk use requires \$12K). Includes information on having an EPROM burned (cost is \$15) after configuring Extended ADOS-3. Disk, \$39.95. Extended ADOS-3 plus ADOS-3, \$64.95. Driver for Distri real-time clock, \$5. Adapter for controllers lacking 28-pin socket, \$10. SmartWatch real-time clock (Tandy 26-1033 equiv.), \$35 (Drivers for ERI ADOS-3 and OS-9 included; usable in 28-pin socketed controllers or in Rompack, \$10).

"...will blow your socks off...impossible to give Extended ADOS-3 anything other than a rave review." — Rainbow, October 1989.

"Flawless, compatible operation with just about everything under the sun...by far the most USEFUL product ever devised for the Color Computer." — CoCo Clipboard, Sept/Oct 1989.

ADOS-3 (reviewed July 1987)

Customize default startup message, colors, screen width, baud rate, step rates, processor speed, number of tracks (35, 40, or 80). Disk I/O and printing are reliable at double CPU speed. Extra commands such as FAST, SLOW, AUTO, RUNN, SCAN, CAT, PRT ON/OFF. Keystroke macros, arrow-key scroll through BASIC programs, edit/repeat of last command, auto-edil of error line, ML monitor, lots more. Usable as a disk utility or in EPROM 128K Coco 3. EPROM-burning (cost is \$15-20) information provided. Disk, \$34.95.

ADOS for CoCo 1 and 2 Disk, \$27.95.

FOR OS-9: SmartWatch real-time clock with driver, \$30.00; in Rompack, \$40.00.

SPECTROSYSTEMS

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The program comes with demos and 15 pages of clear, easily understood, step-by-step instructions that will have you creating your own sprites within 10 minutes. Really, that's all it takes.

You will be astonished at what can be done from BASIC, or should I say *Sprite-BASIC*. At \$44.95 it is a genuine steal. It adds commands and capabilities to the CoCo 3 that should have been there all along.

(Supersoft, Inc., 363 Oakwood Ave., Jackson, MI 49203; 517-787-3610; \$44.95 plus \$2.50 S/H)

— Randy Cassel

Utility

OS-9 Level II

Labelbase

There are many programs that allow you to print labels. Some are written to print only one type of label, such as address labels. With *Labelbase* you can print labels for addresses, disks, cassettes, VCR tapes — virtually any type of label up to a maximum size of 5½ inches long by eight inches wide. You can also use the program to print letterheads, invitations, Rolodex cards and envelopes.

This program provides an area for 10 of your printer's format codes so you can later embed these within a label. This feature allows you to print your labels using many different fonts no matter which printer you own.

Labelbase requires a CoCo 3, OS-9 Level II and a printer. The program displays correctly only with an 80-column screen. This program is very easy to use. I had it running in about five minutes.

From the main menu, there are many options available. You can view the contents of your present working directory. You can also start, load or edit an address file that can later be used to print address labels, envelopes, etc. Other options allow you to enter printer codes used by your printer or take you to the label menu.

After you have initiated an address file, you can edit or enter text according to the fields already set up for you. The fields that can be used for a label include first and last name, street address, city and state, ZIP codes using five or nine digits, country, telephone numbers including area codes and birth dates. There is even a field for query entries.

Within the edit menu are three different ways to view or edit the address records. You can start at the beginning of the file and

move forward or backward through the address records. You can choose to start at a certain record by entering its number, or you can search the entire file for records containing certain characters within one of the fields.

If you choose the search option, the program finds and displays the first record containing the parameters you have en-

nited, giving you a way to have different print styles on a label.

When you are ready to print a label you must go to the Label menu. The first thing I did was use the Configuration option, telling the program which size label I was going to be using. The maximum settings allow you to print letterheads since 80 characters will fit on a line when using Pica, which prints at 10 characters per inch.

After setting the size of the label, you are ready to edit the label. The edit screen has a handy font guide in the upper right corner that shows you how many characters at 10, t2 and t7 characters per inch fit on each line of the label you are editing. This guide and the display showing where the cursor is currently located in terms of which row and column helps you keep your text within the present label boundaries. Not only can you enter the text you want printed on a label, but you can get a little fancy by imbedding the previously configured function codes within the text. Also if you are printing address labels, envelopes or letterheads, you can merge any of the fields from the address records into the label. Then when you print the labels the program opens the address file you have loaded and prints the data contained within that field onto the label where you have merged the field.

Once you have a label looking the way you want, you can save that label definition or configuration to disk so you can load it later, saving you the trouble of entering it all over again.

When you are ready to print some labels, you are presented with some very nice ways to print it. You can choose to test print a label where only one label is printed so you can see if it prints the way you want. You can also choose to print many labels using data from an address file. If you use an address file, you can print the entire address file onto labels or select only certain labels to print using a procedure similar to the Search option on the Edit menu — only records that contain certain characters in a specified field will be printed. You are also provided the opportunity to tell *Labelbase* how many times you want the labels printed. If you are printing letterheads or invitations, you can choose to have a form feed sent to the printer so it will position itself at the top of the next page, ready to print the next letterhead or invitation.

Whew! Is this enough for you? The author of *Labelbase* has given a lot of thought to which features are most beneficial to the user.

I tried the program on two different-sized labels using the address files. I also printed a couple of letterheads. In every respect the program performed flawlessly.

The menus and prompts guide you

**With *Labelbase*
you can print
labels for
addresses, disks,
cassettes, VCR
tapes — virtually
any type of label
up to a maximum
size of 5½ inches
long by eight
inches wide.**

tered. You can then quit the search or continue searching through the entire file for any address records that contain the characters you are looking for.

You cannot change the names of the fields within the address records. But there is no reason not to enter other data in a field, even if the data does not match the field name. For example, in place of a person's name you could enter the name of a disk, tape or other such data and then use the file to print that kind of label.

When you exit the edit menu, the address file is automatically saved to your current working directory. You can either make many different address files or one long file containing many addresses.

Configuring the program for your printer is very easy providing you know some of the function codes for your printer. Choosing the Configure option results in a screen display where you can enter codes that turn on and off ten different fonts or other functions used by your printer. These function codes are automatically saved to a file within the current working directory so they will be available the next time you use *Labelbase*. You can skip all this and use the default settings for your printer. These codes can later be embedded within a label defi-

through the program very efficiently. And the manual, which comes in a nice three-ring folder, gives you complete and clear instructions that will have you printing those labels in no time.

(Constellation Computer Consultants,
P.O. Box 423, Sanford, ME 04073; \$14.95
plus \$2 S/H)

— Richard McNabb

Game

CoCo 1, 2 & 3

Games Pack I

Games Pack I is a package of three fun-to-play programs for your CoCo 3 and disk drive. All three games are easy to operate and use onscreen instructions. The software is not copy protected so it is possible to make a backup copy. To run the program, simply type RUN "MENU" and press the ENTER key. The menu screen appears and provides a choice of three ready-to-run games, or an option to create your own word list for the first game selection.

Pardon Me Roy is a version of the popu-

lar Hangman game we have all played on paper. This version is very colorful and uses the excellent graphics capability of the CoCo 3. A gallows complete with noose is shown on the screen. In the upper left corner of the screen is an hour glass. The game can be played by one or more persons. It selects from either computer generated words or a word list you can create and save to disk. Games with more than one player must rely on words that are spontaneously generated by the players themselves and then entered into the computer. Each player has 10 chances to guess the secret word. As each letter is used, it is deleted from the alphabet shown on the screen. And with each miss, another piece of Roy is added to the gallows. Roy is a cheerful scarecrow whose hands and feet are of straw, topped off with the head of a pumpkin. He is a character tame enough even for small children.

Brainbuster is a variation on the old TV gameshow *Concentration*, in which contestants tried to match words and symbols hidden behind squares in a grid to solve a puzzle. With *Brainbuster*, you have several types of items hidden behind a grid of your own design from which to select. The grid can be as small as 5-by-5, or as large as 10-by-10. The difficulty of the game is up to

player discretion. The matched items can be selected from graphics symbols, numbers, punctuation, or a mixture of them all. The number of players can range from one to seven. *Brainbuster* is a real challenge.

Master Mind is the most difficult game of this group. It requires a great deal of attention and concentration. Even though no graphics are used, this challenging game is still fun. The object of the game is to guess a sequence of five numbers. Each number can range from one to five. The computer signals the player when the right number is placed in the wrong position. There are 10 chances to correctly decipher the secret combination of numbers. Don't let the brief summation of this game fool you. *Master Mind* requires the mind of a master.

There is also a version of *Games Pack I* for use with the CoCo 1 and 2. The play is identical, but the graphics here are not as good as the CoCo 3 version. *Games Pack I* is a selection of programs that should be fun for the whole family.

(Eversoft Games, Ltd., P.O. Box 3354, Arlington, WA 98223; 206-653-5263; either version is \$10 plus \$2 S/H)

— Jerry Semones

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Received and Certified

The following products have recently been received by THE RAINBOW, examined by our magazine staff and issued the Rainbow Seal of Certification, your assurance that we have seen the product and have ascertained that it is what it purports to be.

CoCo MIDI Pro, a full featured MIDI recorder/sequencer written for the Color Computer 3 with 512K of memory and a disk drive or cassette recorder. Requires a hardware MIDI interface such as CoCo MIDI or Colorchestra plugged into slot three of a MultiPak (or a Y-cable). *CoCo MIDI Pro* turns your CoCo into a recording studio, complete with a sixteen track recorder, punch in/out capability, automatic synchronization, and extensive editing capabilities. *Musicware, Hamlet Rt. Box 1261, Seaside, OR 97138, 503-738-0119; \$150, includes MIDI interface.*

◆ **Banking Master**, a machine-language program to help you keep track of both checking and savings accounts. Saves you money on unnecessary bank charges. Takes the guesswork out of knowing your exact bank balance. Requires a 128K CoCo 3 and disk drive; printer optional. *Russ Griggs, 1118 Perry Avenue, Bremerton, WA 98310; \$20.*

The Super Book, a reference manual for BASIC and machine-language programming. Includes memory maps and hints and tips for beginners and hackers. Covers the CoCo 1, 2 and 3. *Supersoft, Inc., 363 Oakwood Avenue, Jackson, MI 49203, 517-787-3610; \$14.95 plus \$2.50 S/H.*

◆ **Commands/Errors 1**, three programs intended to be both an analytic and learning complement to the CoCo 3. Each program provides immediate access to the 168 BASIC commands and 39 BASIC errors contained in the Tandy Color Computer 3 BASIC and disk manuals. The COMERR program lets the user review and learn the commands and errors while leaving enough free memory to analyze the program commands and their use. *R.S. Research Associates, 479 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, 717-822-7535; \$25.*

Honor Quest: Revenge of Justice, a fantasy graphics Adventure for the CoCo 3 and one disk drive. You must destroy hordes of monsters, explore castles and search ruins, search out the secrets of the trap-filled temples, talk with surviving inhabitants for clues and finally storm the dark castle to destroy the Evil Empress and free the land. *Valkyrie Software, 37 Peter Bush Drive, Monroe, NY 10950, 914-783-0191; \$27.95 plus \$2 S/H.*

◆ **Goodies Disk One**, a set of ten utilities written in BASIC09. Includes a statistics program, a color mixer, a file ownership utility, a filter, a simula-

tor, and five other programs. This package is both useful and educational. The source code is provided and the author encourages the user to learn from and experiment with the software. All programs, except the RGB color mixer, will run on any CoCo OS-9 system with runb. *The Warpedit Drive, 54 Martindale Dr. NE, Calgary, AB T3J 2V4, 403-280-8870; \$12, \$14 cdu.*

KJV on Disk #12, the book of II Samuel from the King James version of the Bible, in ASCII files for the CoCo 1, 2 and 3. Word processor or text editor is recommended for viewing the files. Requires at least 32K and one disk drive. *BDS Software, P.O. Box 485, Glenview, IL 60025-0485; \$3.*

KJV on Disk #13, the book of I Kings from the King James version of the Bible, in ASCII files for the CoCo 1, 2 and 3. Word processor or text editor is recommended for viewing the files. Requires at least 32K and one disk drive. *BDS Software, P.O. Box 485, Glenview, IL 60025-0485; \$3.*

◆ **Spell Master**, a 3D action/Adventure game where your character is trapped in a maze and must find all the magic nodes to escape. There are endless types of monsters and mazes. You create your own character and spells. Onscreen mapping and joystick controlled. Requires a CoCo 3, disk drive and

joystick. RGB monitor recommended but not required. *Daniel Tuttle, 325 Hillstown Rd., Manchester, CT 06040, 203-643-1072; \$18.*

Vocabase, a vocabulary/spelling/language database program. Will work with more than one student — all must use the same vocabulary list, but each is addressed, scored and rewarded independently. Scoring, timing and quality rating are given upon request. A reward game is provided for 5-10 correct answers on the first try. Requires 16K, disk or tape, Standard or Extended Color BASIC. *CoCoSoft, Beech and Broadway, Box 665, House, NM 88121; \$8.*

The Quest for Thelda, an arcade game for the CoCo 3 with a disk drive. Joystick control is optional. Join in a magical search for six life forces that will set Thelda free from an evil wizard. Hi-Res graphics and extensive playing field. *Sundog Systems, 21 Edinburg Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, 412-372-5674; \$34.95 plus \$2.50 S/H.*

CoCo Cassettes #95, #96, and #97, each package contains 10 different programs. A wide range of interests are covered. Home Management, graphics, utilities, education, music, adventures, telecommunications and games. *T&D Software, 2490 Miles Stanish Drive, Holland, MI 49424, 616-399-9648; \$8 ea, \$70 for yearly subscription.*

◆ First product received from this company

The *Seal of Certification* is open to all manufacturers of products for the Tandy Color Computer, regardless of whether they advertise in THE RAINBOW.

By awarding a *Seal*, the magazine certifies the program does *exist* — that we have examined it and have a sample copy — but this *does not* constitute any guarantee of satisfaction. As soon as possible, these hardware or software items will be forwarded to THE RAINBOW reviewers for evaluation.

Review *In the Limelight*



Game

CoCo 3

The Quest for Thelda -- Quench the Desire to Squire



ondering what to buy a CoCo arcade game enthusiast? Well, just in time for the holidays there is a new, fast-action, arcade-Adventure game on the market: *The Quest for Thelda*. This CoCo 3 graphics adventure, available from Sundog Systems, is suitable for the young and old alike. You may be familiar with the author, Eric Wolf, who has had some of his earlier programs published in THE RAINBOW. This is one of his best works to date.

In *Thelda*, you assume the role of a squire. You will gain the hand of Thelda in marriage if you successfully retrieve the six life forces. Thelda is the King's daughter who has been kidnapped by an evil wizard. Having no idea of Thelda's beauty or lack thereof, you decide the quest is a noble cause. Off you march to search for the elusive life forces with visions of inheriting the throne.

The terrain is full of creatures who patrol the evil empire. If you attack and defeat these creatures they occasionally drop their

booty. Their offerings include bombs, life points, spell points and coins. The coins can be used to purchase potions, weapons and other goodies from traders who reside somewhere in the maze.

The action on the ground level of play is brisk. I recall almost 10 different types of heathen riffraff obstructing my way through this level. Here you can collect coins from the creatures, which is a challenging task. Each beast conquered carries only a few coins, and some items for purchase fetch prices of hundreds of coins. Trial and error is the only way to discover which enemies carry coins. Sneaking up behind or to the sides of creatures is tricky. They move quickly and change directions often.

The graphics are well-drawn and colorful. The placement of cavern walls, rocks, trees, bushes, rivers and bridges has been carefully constructed. The surroundings give visual clues as to where you are in the game. Some of the creatures serve as directional markers as well.

You need quick reflexes when playing this game via keyboard or joystick control.

You'll be in for quite a surprise if you can't master the overground obstacles. You see, the life forces are hidden deep in underground labyrinths. These labyrinths are difficult to navigate. Fast creatures with evil intentions await your entrance.

Try to obtain a source of light above ground because portions of the underground are dark. Monsters are visible but pathways are not. I bumped into walls and threw down planks to cross unseen waterways. A light in these dark sections would have kept panic to a minimum. Try to locate the compass and map icons. These game pieces come in handy. They provide you with an onscreen map of the underground maze showing the layout and telling you through which rooms you've already traveled.

There are only minor differences between playing *Thelda* on a 128K machine and a 512K machine. All graphics information is loaded prior to game play when you use a 512K CoCo. When played on a 128K CoCo, the program consults the disk to update graphics. But this doesn't happen with each move to another screen. Perish

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\$34.95

Hint book now available for Thelda! Contains clues, maps, and even a BASIC program to modify your own characters! \$4.95

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You have been chosen to pilot the spacecraft wielding the plutonium plasma laser against the relentless insectoids, the Zenians. Those bugs have been ripping off the space trade lines for years; now they're about to find a victim who can fight back! Beat back the swarm of pests to their home planet Zenix, and use the laser to end the menace once and for all. Zenix is a lightning fast arcade game for the 128K CoCo 3. The 320x225 16 color graphics are amazing, as are the digital background music score and effects, all on a 128K computer! The fast action and game play will astound you. In this GALAGA of extermination. Plug in your joystick and step in for the ride of your life! Call to order a demo disk to see the action before you buy! Req. 128K CoCo 3, disk drive, and joystick.

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In the year 2971, a mysterious object landed on Earth, heralding the alien Invasion of the Red Falcon. Only two courageous soldiers have a hope of stemming this alien invasion. Armed with your military training and the latest weapon technology, you and a friend must fight back the hordes. Sundog Systems presents our second 512K game, The Contras. You'll see why we decided to use 512K on this project! Amazing graphics with 320x225 resolution, 16 color full screen animation and horizontal smooth scrolling! Background digital sound effects and real-time music! One or two player action AT THE SAME TIME! You'll agree that this is one of the best arcade games yet for your 512K CoCo 3. Needless to say, playing hero won't be easy: playing The Contras will be!

Req. 512K CoCo 3, disk drive, and 2-button joystick.

\$34.95

The superior technology of the evil Overlords has unseated yet another innocent planet; however, this one contains the Crystal City, bastion of democracy and independence. Earth has had enough! Break through level upon level of their virtually invulnerable defenses, defeat the end guardians, and make your way ever closer to saving the slaves of the Crystal City! This amazing arcade game is an achievement in its own right. Full 128K/512K utilization! Super fast horizontal hardware scrolling on the 128K computer! Wild digital sound effects and background music score! 30 minutes, or over 30 megabytes, of non-repeating 320x200 resolution, 16 color graphics! This game has it all; order a demo disk to see it first! Can you save the Crystal City from unbeatable foes? Req. 128K CoCo 3, disk drive, and joystick.

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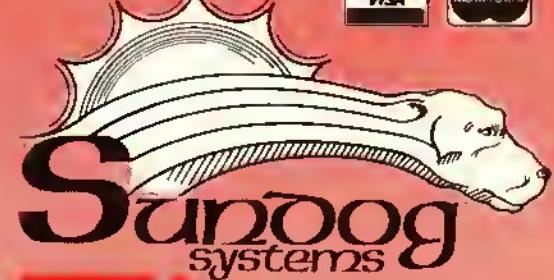
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the thought of this game being bogged down by continual disk access.

I can't say enough to praise the graphics of this package. Colors are comparable using an RGB or composite monitor. The above ground graphics remind me of many of the popular games systems available on the market. The underground graphics are even better. There are over 500 graphics screens in *The Quest for Thelda*.

I spoke with Eric and expressed concerns about finishing the game in time to meet review deadlines. He sent me a character with an overabundance of attributes. When the disk arrived I had just two life forces left to retrieve. Having gotten this far on my own I really didn't want to cheat to win. (If you're having problems defeating characters or locating certain rooms, there is help. A hint book is available from Sundog Systems for \$4.95 plus \$1 S/H. This book provides maps of the underground, character modifications, clues and fighting tips.)

I marched onward and battled strange forms to obtain the remaining life forces. A whirlybird creature that multiplied itself when attacked was one such obstacle. These creatures were reluctant to relinquish the life force they guarded. But with the staying power achieved by this squire, I managed to prevail. My next opponent was the giant elf. He was a formidable enemy who seemed impenetrable to all the spells in my bag of tricks.

I did finally slay this Goliath and I was treated to an appealing story conclusion. The credits scrolled with musical accompaniment. After hearing this music I wondered why I hadn't heard music earlier in the game. I think a recurring theme song could have added a pinch more spice to this wonderful game. There are sound effects like exploding bombs, descending elevators and squeaky noises representing attacks that give this game a fun touch.

It was a delight to review this package. The save/load-game feature allowed for continued play at a leisurely pace. The manual provides enough information to get you started without spoiling the flavor of the game. For instance, the manual mentions spells that will be useful in your journey, but doesn't mention how to use them. Their intended uses are left for the adventurer to discover. The quality of the manual is another nice touch. The game requires a CoCo 3, a disk drive and an RGB or composite monitor. A joystick is optional. This is a good, clean game the whole family can enjoy. My feelings can be summed up with one word. More!

(Sundog Systems, P.O. Box 766, Manassas, VA 22111; 703-330-8989; \$34.95 plus \$2.50 S/H)

—Tony Olive

The Rainbow Bookshelf

The Rainbow Book of Simulations

20 award-winning entries from THE RAINBOW's first Simulations contest.

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The 16 winners from our second Simulations contest.

The Complete Rainbow Guide to OS-9

Authors Dale Puckett and Peter Dibble demonstrate OS-9's multitasking and multiuser features.

The Complete Rainbow Guide to OS-9 Level II Vol. I: A Beginner's Guide to Windows

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Contains 14 winning programs from our first Adventure contest.

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Intercom

An important link in the CoCo community is its ability to communicate with fellow users. If questions arise, a fresh source of information can be invaluable. We here at THE RAINBOW have decided to create "Intercom," an information exchange point for Pen Pals, CoCo Clubs and BBSs.

If you would like a Pen Pal or are running a CoCo Club or BBS, send us a letter including the information listed here to: The Rainbow Intercom, P.O. Box 385, Prospect, KY 40059.

Only those parties who have signed our non-piracy "agreement form" appear in listings of Intercom. Also, please notify us if you want to add or delete any names on this list.

PEN PALS

I am 12 years old and have a CoCo 3, a CM-8 monitor, an FD-502 disk drive, and a DMP-132 printer. I'm looking for pen pals from all over the world. I would especially like letters from Australia.

Max Fischer
629 So. 8th St.
Vincennes, IN 47591

I have a 128K CoCo 3, an FD-501 drive, a CCR-81 cassette recorder, a 1200-baud modem, a DMP-106 printer, and a Multi-Pak Interface. I will answer all letters.

Rich Butler
702 Northcass, Box 304
Mt. Ayr, IA 90894

I have a CoCo 3 with two disk drives and a graphics printer. I'm 12 years old and love the CoCo. I would enjoy communicating with pen pals from anywhere in the world. I love games.

Sergio Abrahao
Ruo Fradique Coutinho, 623 ap 63-B
Cep-05416 Sao Paulo SP
Brasil

I'm 15 and would like some pen pals. My system is a 64K CoCo, a disk drive and a DMP-105 printer. I have just started to get into computing, so please help.

Terry Phillips
406 Spring Rd.
Jamestown, NC 27282

I want to start a club for small business owners like myself who are now using the CoCo for mailing lists, inventory, accounting etc. Anyone out there interested in an exchange of uses and ideas please contact me by mail. Thanks.

J.K. Sinrod
16 Scranton Ave.
Lynbrook, NY 11563

I'm 14 years old and would like pen pals from anywhere, but especially any residing in my area. I own a CoCo 3, a CCR-81 and an FD-502 disk drive. I love Adventure gaming. I'll try to respond to all letters.

James McCarthy
RD 4, Box 520
DuBois, PA 15801

I have a 512K CoCo 3, an FD-502 and a Teac 3.5 inch disk drive, a DMP-105 and a DCM-106. I'm 31 years young and I enjoy communicating. I will answer all letters, but I prefer computer-related matters. I am also interested in forming a BBS.

Art Foley
600 S. 27th St., #914
Omaha, NE 68105

I'm 18 and looking for male or female writers around my age. I have a CoCo 3, a BBS, a CCR-81, two FD-502 drives, a DMP-106, and I know a lot about computers. My interests are science fiction, electronics, computers, computer art and robotics. I'll answer all letters and messages.

Brian O'Conner
36 Waverly Place
Melrose, MA 02176

I have a 512K CoCo 3, an FD-502 dual drive, a DMP-130 printer, a modem and a CM-8 monitor. I'm 32 years old and enjoy arcade and Adventure games, as well, I like CoCo 3 artwork. Other interests include watching and collecting Star Trek memorabilia! I'm looking forward to meeting new CoCo pen pals from all over the world. I will reply to every letter I receive.

Michael Terry
P.O. Box 1966
Cornwall, ON K6H 6N7
Canada

I'm 16 years old and have a CoCo 3, an FD-502 disk drive and an Epson printer. My main interest is in getting information about the OS-9 operating system and telecommunications. I'd especially like to receive letters from Puerto Rico.

Luis E. Tavon Garcia
P.O. Box 475
Naranjito, PR 00719

I'm 36 years old and have a 512K CoCo 3, Extended ADOS3, a CM-8, an MPI, a digitizer and assorted drives, modems and printers. I love graphics and digitizing photos, as well as BBSing. Besides the CoCo, I love hard rock music, photography and videography. Seeking pen pals, ages 13 to 80, male and female, with similar interests. I will answer all legitimate letters.

Steve Ricketts
P.O. Box 828
Sandy, OR 97055

CoCo CLUBS

CALIFORNIA

The Sacramento CoCo Club, William W. Drennon, 2444 Wurth Ct., Sacramento, 95825, (916) 486-9665, BBS (916) 486-1594

COLORADO

Colorado Springs Color Computer Club, Bud Ward, 1118 Claiborne Road, Colorado Springs, 80906-5513, (719) 392-8268

FLORIDA

Cross-Country Color Computer Club, Tom Tittle, 860 Gardenia Drive, Royal Palm Beach, 33411, (407) 798-3726

GEORGIA

Macon-Warner Robins Color Computer Users Group, Francis G. Swyger, 904 2nd Avenue, Robins AFB, 31098, (912) 328-7859

ILLINOIS

CoCo Users Group, c/o Greg Adams, 224 Park Drive, Sterling, 61081-3033, (815) 626-4962

KANSAS

The Kansas City Color Computer Users Group, Gay Crawford, 1601 Kiowa Drive, Olathe, 66062, (913) 764-9413

KENTUCKY

Hardin County Color Computer Club, Paul Ur. bahns, 2887 Republic Ave., Radcliff, 40160, (502) 281-4757

MICHIGAN

Color Computer Owners Group, Bernard A. Patton, 388 Emmons Blvd., Wyandotte, 48192, (313) 283-2474

MISSISSIPPI

Central Mississippi Color Computer Society, Boisy G. Pitre, 6011-55 North, Jackson, 39213, (601) 956-9377

MISSOURI

CoCoNuts User Group, Clyde Lloyd, 2116 N. Columbia, Springfield, 65803, (417) 866-8738

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh CoCo Club, P.O. Box 10632, Raleigh, 27605, (919) 878-3865

The Tandy Color Computer Users of Charlotte, Eric Stringer, 1022 Noles Dr., Mt. Holly, 28120

OHIO

Dayton Area Color Computer Users Group, John Teague, 308 Orangewood Drive, Kettering, 45429, (513) 434-9168

The Greater Toledo Color Computer Club, Bill Espen, 1319 North St., Bowling Green, 43402, (419) 471-9444

PENNSYLVANIA

Johnstown Area Color Computer Users Group, Albert Baldish, 111 C St. Apt #1, Johnstown, 15906, (814) 535-1497

SOUTH DAKOTA

Empire Area Color Computer Users Group of South Dakota, Carl Holt, P.O. Box 395, Brandon, 57005, (605) 582-3862

AUSTRALIA

Australian National OS-9 Users Group, Gordon Bentzen, C/- 8 Odin Street, Sunnybank, Queensland, 4109, (07) 345-5141

Brisbane Southwest Colour Computer Users Group,

Bob Devries, 21 Virgo St., Inala, Queensland, 4077,
(61)-7-3727816

CANADA

• Club Ordinateur Metro Inc., William Manning,
3020 D'Angouleme, Tracy, Quebec, J3R 3B3, (514)
742-3692
• Calgary Colour Computer Club, Gerry McCleary,

P.O. Box 22, Station M, Calgary, T1Y 5C4
• Le Club D'Ordinateur Couleur du Quebec Inc.,
7110 8 e. Ave, St-Michel, Montreal, Quebec, H2A
3C4, (514) 729-8467
• Moncton-Dieppe-Riverview CoCo Club, Philippe
Lantin, 77 Ninth St., Moncton, New Brunswick, E1E
3E5, (506) 382-7706

GERMANY

• OS-9 Users Group in Europe, Burghard Kinzel,
Leipziger Ring 22A, D-5042 ERFTSTADT

PUERTO RICO

• Puerto Rico Color Computer Club, Luis R. Martinez,
P.O. Box 2072, Guaynabo, 00657-7004, (809)
799-8217 or (809) 728-2314

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 ONE ROOM ADVENTURE
 OS9 TUTORIAL
 RIVER CAPTAIN
 SOUNDS
 BETTING POOL
 ADVANCE
 MATH TABLES
 ELECTRONICS 9
 LOWER TO UPPER
 NOIDS

ISSUE #67, JAN. 1988
 MEDIA MASTER
 SAVE THE EARTH
 WEIGHTS & MEASURES
 LOW RES GRAPHICS
 COAST TO COAST
 BACCARAT
 BATTLESHIP
 ELECTRONICS 10
 TAPE CONVENIENCE
 DUEL

ISSUE #68, FEB. 1988
 COINFILE
 WORD COUNTER
 SQUIRREL ADVENTURE
 AREA CODES
 DRAW POKER
 TURTLE RACES
 ELECTRONICS 11
 MULTI-SCREEN
 CANON PRINT
 COCO TENNIS

ISSUE #69, MAR. 1988
 POLICE CADET
 STAMP COLLECTION
 BARRACKS ADVENTURE
 CITY/TIME
 HI-LO CRAPS
 OLYMPICS
 HI-RES CHESS
 ELECTRONICS 12
 COUPLE EDITOR
 COUPLE BREAKOUT

ISSUE #70, APR. 1988
 BLOTO DICE
 SUPER COMM
 GENESIS ADVENTURE
 PLANETS
 PHKWAR
 SIGN LANGUAGE
 ARX SHOOTOUT
 ELECTRONICS 13
 MAGIC KEY
 SNAP PRINT

ISSUE #71, MAY 1988
 SUPER LOTTO
 RODOL ADVENTURE
 MAZE
 YAHTZEE 3
 PHASER
 SHAPES PLATES
 STAR WARS
 ELECTRONICS 14
 PRINTER CONTROL
 MAZE 2

ISSUE #72, JUNE 1988
 MARKET WATCHER
 3 STOOGES
 HOSTAGE ADVENTURE
 PROGRAM TRIO
 GLADIATOR
 U.S. & CANADA QUIZ
 JEOPARDY
 ELECTRONICS 15
 COCO 3 PRINT
 CITY

ISSUE #73, JULY 1988
 FOREIGN OBJECTS
 CHESS FUNDAMENTALS
 WATERFOWL QUIZ
 WHAMMY 3
 ADVENTURE TUTORIAL
 CIRCLE 3
 EDUCATION TRIO
 WRITE-UP EDITOR
 PICTURE PACKER
 AIR ATTACK

ISSUE #74, AUG. 1988
 VIDEO CAT 3
 1 EYE WILLIE
 JAVA
 GAME TRIO
 CRIONAUT WARRIOR
 ENVELOPE PRINT
 RAM DRIVE 3
 MODE 2
 XMODEM TRANSFER
 CAVE II

ISSUE #75, SEP. 1988
 DRACULA ADVENTURE
 HELP TRIO PROGRAM
 SHOWDOWN DICE
 TARZAR 1 ADVENTURE
 ARAKNON
 CASH FLOW REPORTING
 GRAPHICS LETTER
 GRAPHIC EDITOR
 ADDRESS BOOK
 SQUARES

ISSUE #76, OCT. 1988
 SUPER BLITZ 3
 CHAMBERS
 TRIO RACE
 EARTH TROOPER
 STARGATE
 BOWLING SECRETARY
 DISK TUTORIAL
 JOYSTICK > KEYBOARD
 KEYBOARD > JOYSTICK
 *SAILOMAN

ISSUE #77, NOV. 1988
 POLICE CADET #2
 STARSHIP SHOWDOWN
 MUSIC COMPOSER
 COUPONS/REBATES
 PROGRAM LIBRARY
 BOYS/CUT SEMAPHOR
 HOUSEHOLD CHORES
 MAXOMAR ADVENTURE
 CHUCK LUCK 3
 *BUZZARD BATE

ISSUE #78, DEC. 1988
 POLICE CADET #3
 TANK TURRET
 WAR OF THE WORLDS
 SPINSTER CAFE
 COCO-SIZE
 SIGN MAKER
 LEGAL DEDUCTIONS
 BOOK KEEPING
 CAR LEASE 3
 *WAREHOUSE MUTANTS

ISSUE #79, JAN. 1989
 POLICE CADET #4
 DRAW POKER 3
 TILER TEX
 BATTLE
 INSIDE THE COCO
 COCO BULLETIN BOARD
 HOT DIRECTORY
 VCR TUTORIAL
 PRINTER CONTROL
 *THE KING

ISSUE #80, FEB. 1989
 SCRABBLE
 SPELLING CHECKER
 SANDSTONE ADVNT.
 THE FAMILY FEUD
 HARNESS 3 HANDICAP
 MINIGOLF 3
 ULTIMATERM 3
 NETWORKING TUTORIAL
 A-MAZING PLACE
 *MONOPOLY

ISSUE #81, MAR. 1989
 MONSTERS
 SUPER CONCENTRATION
 TEN PROGRAMS COCO3
 FINANCE
 SNOWBALL FIGHT
 RULER
 POP-UP WINDOWS
 TARZAR 2 - CASTLE
 SUPER LISTER
 *DIACONIAN

ISSUE #82, APR. 1989
 DUNGEON MAZE
 DISK TRANSFER
 MAIL MERGE
 SUPER SPREADSHEET
 BLASTER
 TILER TWO
 DREAM TUNNEL
 DISK UTILITY 3
 EDUCATION TRIO
 *LUNCHTIME

ISSUE #83, MAY 1989
 T&D FIRST 80
 MODEM BATTLESHIP
 CHURCH MANAGER
 SUPER FILE SORT
 BASEBALL STATS
 TARZAR PT. 3
 INVOICE
 CARD SQUEEZE
 SWORDPLAY 1 + 2
 *BREWMASTER

ISSUE #84, JUNE 1989
 CROSSWORD PUZZLES
 MOUNT DEATH
 TERPON
 DISK/TAPE TRANSFER
 PAPER WORKS
 SUPER DATABASE
 CONNECT 3
 BUSINESS MODEL
 MASS FORMAT
 *CHAMBERS

ISSUE #85, JULY 1989
 5 PLAYER POKER
 RESUME WRITER
 CRAZY CHEMIST
 JOURNEY UP
 SUBMAINA
 WORKBENCH
 VACATION PLANNER
 DISK EDITOR II
 NIGHT OF THE NINJA
 *MARTIAN CRYPT

ISSUE #86, AUG. 1989
 TIME TRAP
 PHONE ACCOUNTANT
 ON TARGET
 NAME THAT TUNE 3
 LASER DEFENCE
 CHECKBOOK BALANCER 3
 KROACH ADVENTURE
 SUPER BAR GRAPH
 EASY LETTER
 *DEVIL ASSAULT

ISSUE #87, SEP. 1989
 PURCHASE ORDER
 INVENTORY INVOICE
 AMERICAN TRIVIA
 KROACH 2 ADVENTURE
 TETRA
 SOLO POKER
 GALAXY Q3
 IBM PICTURE VIEWER
 RGB PATCH
 *KING YU

ISSUE #88, OCT. 1989
 SALES PROSPECTING
 VIRUS 3
 WILL MAKER
 JOURNAL-GEN. LEDGER
 POLICE CADET #5
 RED DOG
 MAD LIBS
 MACINTOSH PICT. SAVER
 FROG
 *PSI FLIGHT SIMULATOR

ISSUE #89, NOV. 1989
 SPEECH INDEXER
 QUEST ADVENTURE
 EDUCATION TRIOS
 BIG LETTER
 PANGO
 ELEMENTS
 GARDEN PLANNER
 VIDEO SHOW
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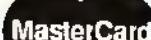
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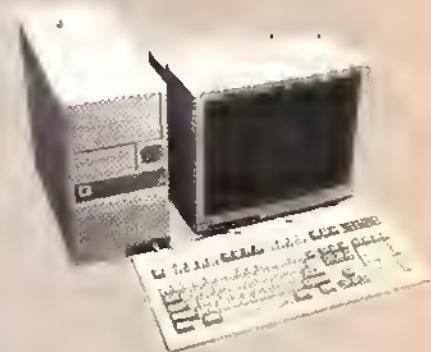
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It's a New World

With a 68000 or 68030 CPU, you have the whole world of OSK available to you. This means a whole world of new software, a whole world of additional



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The **Tomcat** is the upgrade path designed for you.

Take it at your own pace -- as your time, needs and pocketbook permit. If you currently own a CoCo 3 and use it in either the Radio Shack DOS or OS-9 Level II mode, **Tomcat** will operate your software faster and better. It will also give you powerful new features and performance at a modest cost.

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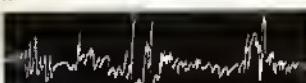
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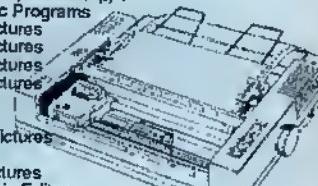
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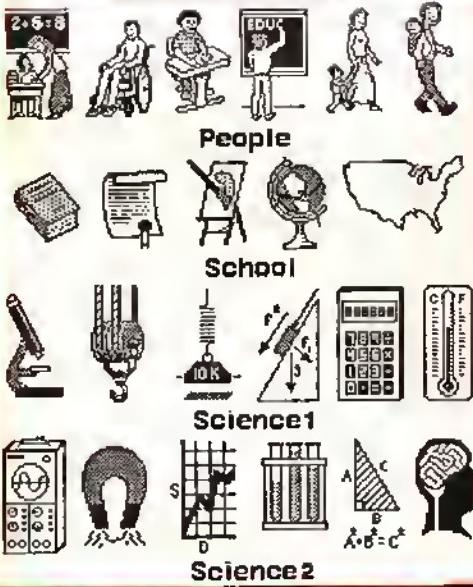
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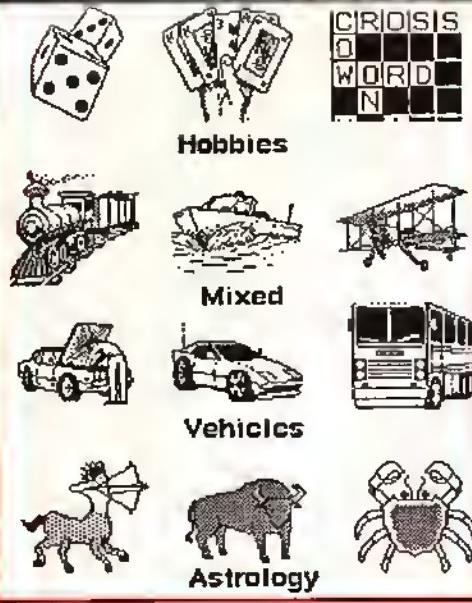
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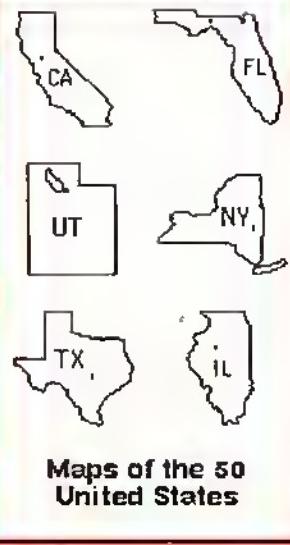
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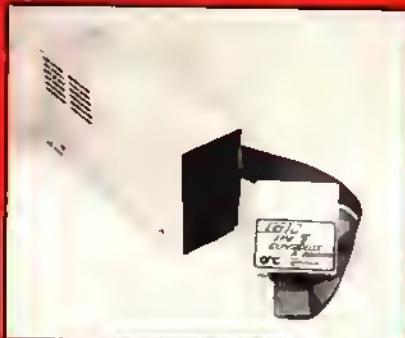
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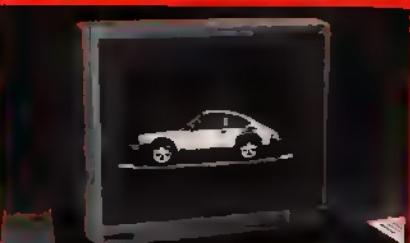
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PRINTERS SUPPORTED: EPSON FX,MX,RXLX AND COMPATIBLES; DMP 105,106,130; CGP220 (B&W); OKI 182,192; STAR NX-10, NX-1000.

Max-10 Add-ons

- **Max-10 Fonts**, 36 super fonts on 2 disks. Send for list. Order #C-23.....\$24.95
NOTE: Max-10 and CoCo Max Fonts aren't interchangeable.
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System Requirements

Max-10 and CoCo Max III Require: any CoCo 3; 1 or more disk drives; joystick or mouse; Radio Shack Hi Resolution joystick interface; a video or RGB monitor or a TV.

About CoCo Max III

Whether you doodle for fun or design graphics for a living, CoCo Max will amaze you. It's simply that good!

Its major features include: Huge picture area (2 full hi-res 320x192 screens), Large editing window. Zoom mode for detail work, 28 point and click drawing tools. Shrink and stretch. Rotation at any angle (1.5° steps). 512K memory support (all features work with 128K too). Undo (Oops) feature to fix mistakes. Animation. Special effects. Color sequencing (8 colors, variable speed). 13 fonts (more available). Each font has 8 sizes and 5 styles for thousands of possible combinations. Translate program to convert most types of pictures. CoCo Show "slide show" program. Miniload program to help use pictures with your software. Color editing of patterns. Prints in single or double size. Select 16 or 64 available colors, all 64 colors are shown at once for easy selection. Pull-down menus. 40 paint brush shapes. Two color lettering. Spray can. Amazing "flowbrush". RGB and composite monitor support. Colors print in 5 shades of gray.

PRINTERS SUPPORTED: EPSON RX,FX,MX,LX AND COMPATIBLES: STAR/GEMINI NX-10,NX-1000; DMP 100,105,106,110,120,130,200; OKI 82A,182,192; CGP-220(B&W)

Color Drivers available. See next column.

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